

L'Ecole

No. 41

2020 40th Anniversary Walla Walla Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

With their first vintage in 1983, our founders Jean and Baker Ferguson had a vision for their winery, the third established in the Walla Walla Valley. With a nod to L'Ecole's original label, we celebrate our 40th Anniversary with a special blend from two of the earliest and most important Walla Walla Valley vineyards. Still family-owned and operated, our spirit of adventure and optimism persists today. We raise a glass to the future!

VINEYARDS

Estate Seven Hills Vineyard 60% - Wind-blown loess

Pepper Bridge Vineyard 40% - Ice age flood deposits

These prestigious vineyards are Certified Sustainable and Certified Salmon Safe.

VINTAGE

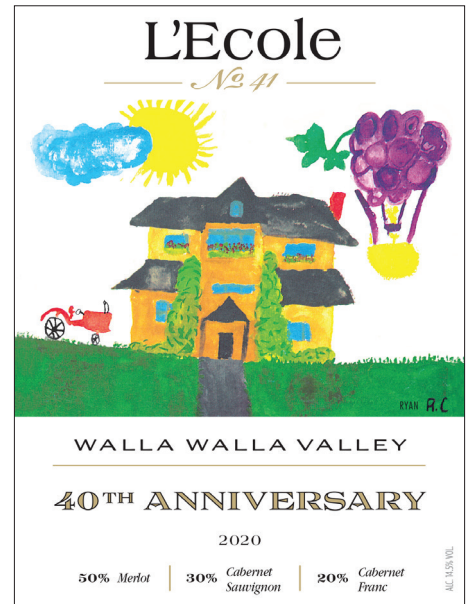
- An easy, mild growing season combined with low yields and a prolonged harvest resulted in wines with wonderful balance, color, and vibrant fruit.
- A normal but quick mid-April bud break was followed by warm spring weather. Freeze events in late 2019 lowered bud fertility, combined with rain and wind during June bloom, which resulted in unusually low yields.
- Heat accumulation tracked the long-term average with veraison on time in early August.
- Older CA/OR wildfire smoke briefly settled into the Columbia Basin the 2nd week of September. Fortunately, the impact on our grapes was negligible since most of the fruit was at a later stage of maturity, combined with the nature of it being older smoke. The diffused sunlight and cooler temperatures slowed ripening, extending harvest well into October.
- The long growing season combined with low yields resulted in wonderful balance, length, and aromatics in the whites, and concentrated flavor, color, texture, and structure in the reds.

WINEMAKING

- 40 years of meticulous vineyard management and winemaking experience are fundamental to the quality of our wines and reputation for excellence.
- Each lot was hand-harvested ripe and gently crushed into 1.5-ton stainless steel fermenters.
- Gentle handling of the fruit through hand punch downs and gravity-assisted movements was utilized throughout the entire winemaking process.
- The wine was cleanly racked to small French oak barrels, 25% new, and barrel aged for 22 months.

TASTING NOTES

This expressive Merlot-based blend reveals beautiful aromatics of dark cherry, blackberry, fresh Mission figs, savory cedar, fresh tobacco, and coffee bean, completed with rose and a touch of sage. Its rich texture is laced with delicate graphite notes, along with dark chocolate and plum, grounded with supple polished tannins. Altogether well-structured, it finishes fresh and focused.



HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	SEPTEMBER 15 - OCTOBER 17, 2020
Average tons/acre	3.19
Average Brix	24.9°
Average pH	3.50
Average Acidity	5.0 g/L

WINE DATA

Composition	50% MERLOT, 30% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 20% CABERNET FRANC
pH	3.78
Total Acidity	5.5 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	JUNE 30, 2022
Release	SPRING 2023
Case Production	1,200