

L'Ecole

No. 41

2020 Ferguson, Estate Ferguson Vineyard Walla Walla Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

Ferguson is L'Ecole's pre-eminent Bordeaux blend, in keeping with our reputation for excellent single-vineyard wines from the Walla Walla Valley. Ferguson reflects the unique terroir expression of its microclimate and geological site.

FERGUSON VINEYARD

Ferguson Vineyard is a stunning, high-elevation site overlooking a panoramic view of the Walla Walla Valley. With 30 planted acres, vines are rooted in fractured basalt rock from 15-million-year-old ancient lava flows overlaid with a thin layer of wind-blown loess. The vineyard is Certified Sustainable and Certified Salmon Safe.

VINTAGE

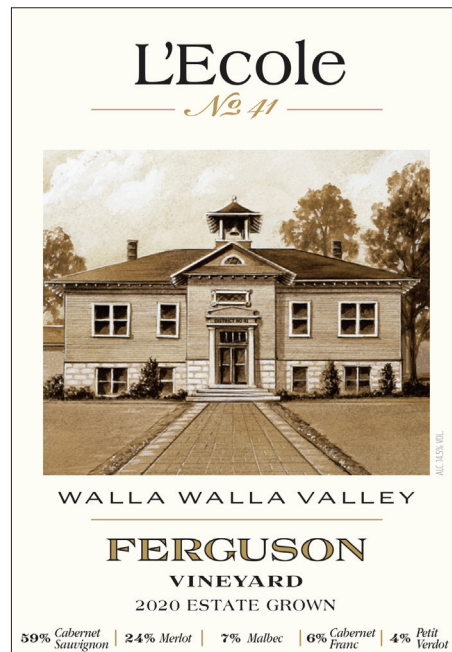
- An easy, mild growing season combined with low yields and a prolonged harvest resulted in wines with wonderful balance, color, and vibrant fruit.
- A normal but quick mid-April bud break was followed by warm spring weather. Freeze events in late 2019 lowered bud fertility, combined with rain and wind 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 open-topped 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, 40% new, and barrel aged for 22 months.

TASTING NOTES

With a flavor profile distinctly influenced by its volcanic basalt soil, Ferguson is a richly structured and energetic wine offering complex, mineral-laced aromas of cassis, blackberries, fragrant violet, tobacco, and sandalwood. Layers of dark fruit and espresso are framed by expressive tannins integrated with crushed rocks and graphite on the palate. Intense, racy, and structured, Ferguson's pronounced natural acidity carries through to a compelling and enduring finish.



HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	OCTOBER 5-20 2020
Average tons/acre	2.39
Average Brix	24.8°
Average pH	3.29
Average Acidity	7.0 g/L

WINE DATA

Composition	59% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 24% MERLOT, 7% MALBEC, 6% CABERNET FRANC, 4% PETIT VERDOT
pH	3.77
Total Acidity	6.2 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	JUNE 27, 2022
Release	SPRING 2023
Case Production	1,300