

# L'Ecole

No. 41

## 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon Walla Walla Valley

### WINEMAKER COMMENT

This wine is sourced from prestigious vineyard sites representing four unique soil types in the Walla Walla Valley. Its old-world structure, dense dark fruit flavors, and elegant tannins exemplify the best of Walla Walla.

### VINEYARDS

This Cabernet Sauvignon reflects the diversity of terroir in the Walla Walla Valley from vineyards planted in:

**Fractured basalt** – Estate Ferguson

**Loess over ice-age flood silts** – Pepper Bridge

**Wind-blown loess** – Estate Seven Hills, Summit View, & Loess

**Alluvial gravel "The Rocks"** – Yellow Jacket & Waliser

### VINTAGE

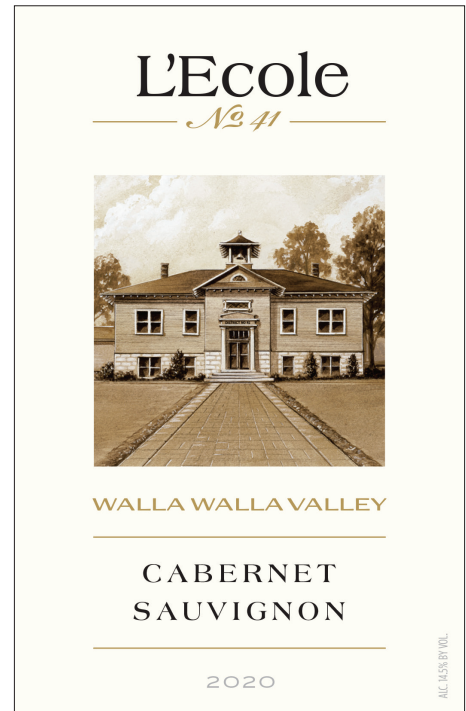
- An easy, mild growing season combined with low yields and a prolonged harvest resulted in wines with wonderful balance, color, and vibrant fruit.
- A normal but quick mid-April bud break was followed by warm spring weather. Freeze events in late 2019 lowered bud fertility, combined with rain and wind 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 and 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, 30% new, and barrel aged for 22 months.

### TASTING NOTES

*Beautifully structured and polished, this stylish Cabernet immediately impresses with its aromatic purity, displaying brooding dark fruits, espresso, and graphite with hints of rose, black currant, and a savory earthiness. In the mouth, fresh flavors of black plum, blackberry, and lavender give way to a robust, mineral-laced finish.*



### HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	OCTOBER 1-20, 2020
Average tons/acre	2.98
Average Brix	25.1°
Average pH	3.37
Average Acidity	5.7 g/L

### WINE DATA

Composition	100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON
pH	3.76
Total Acidity	6.0 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	JUNE 24, 2022
Release	SPRING 2023
Case Production	1,950