

L'Ecole

No 41

2020 Merlot Columbia Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

L'Ecole No 41 is recognized as one of Washington State's top producers of excellent Merlot and this wine delivers with great structure, color, and balanced acidity.

VINEYARDS

Estate Seven Hills, Pepper Bridge, Dionysus, Stone Tree, Estate Ferguson, Summit View

VINTAGE

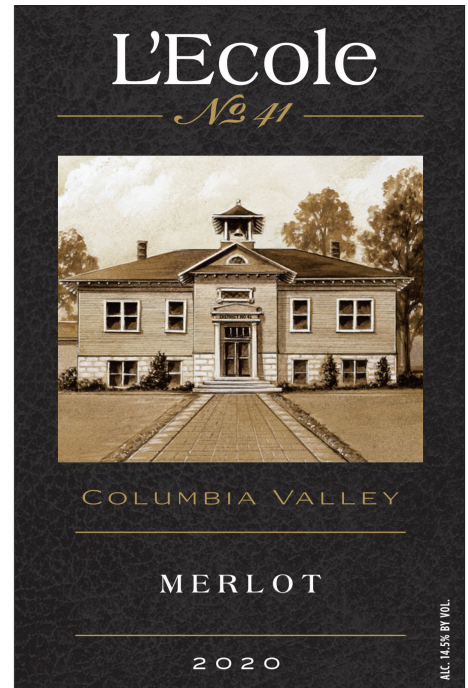
- An easy, mild growing season combined with low yields and a prolonged harvest resulted in wines with wonderful balance, color, and vibrant fruit.
- A normal but quick mid-April bud break was followed by warm spring weather. Freeze events in late 2019 lowered bud fertility, combined with rain and wind 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 at ideal ripeness and gently crushed into 1.5 and 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 oak barrels, 15% new, and barrel aged for 18 months.

TASTING NOTES

Exhibiting lively aromas of plum and black cherry, accented by tobacco leaf, cola, violet, and cedar, this Merlot presents an enchanting old-world character, full-bodied and vigorous, bursting with flavors of macerated berries, espresso, and kirsch. Charming and inviting, it finishes with balance and a satisfying longevity.



HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	SEPTEMBER 4 - OCTOBER 9, 2020
Average Brix	24.9°
Average pH	3.50
Average Acidity	5.5 g/L

WINE DATA

Composition	82% MERLOT, 15% CABERNET FRANC, 2% MALBEC, 1% PETIT VERDOT
pH	3.64
Total Acidity	5.9 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Dates	MAY 3-4, 2022
Release	SPRING 2023
Case Production	3,600