

L'Ecole

N^o 41

2020 Perigee, Estate Seven Hills Vineyard Walla Walla Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

Our Estate Perigee captures the essence of Seven Hills Vineyard's characteristic rich elegance, seductive aromas, and earthy structure. L'Ecole has been producing wines from Seven Hills Vineyard since 1993. We hand-select our oldest and most distinguished blocks to produce this stunning, flagship wine.

SEVEN HILLS VINEYARD

L'Ecole N^o 41 is a partner in the 170 acre acclaimed Seven Hills Vineyard, which is planted in wind-blown loess of geologically young and mineral rich soils. One of the most renowned vineyards of Walla Walla, Seven Hills is Certified Sustainable and Salmon Safe and was recognized as one of the Ten Great Vineyards of the World by *Wine & Spirits Magazine*.

VINTAGE

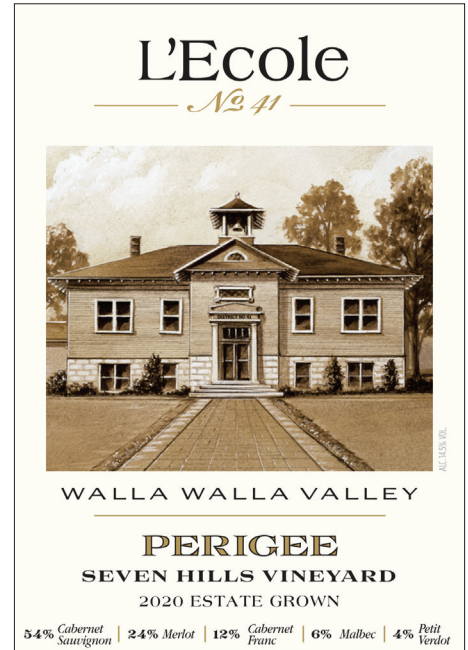
- An easy, mild growing season combined with low yields and a prolonged harvest resulted in wines with wonderful balance, color, and vibrant fruit.
- A normal but quick mid-April bud break was followed by warm spring weather. Freeze events in late 2019 lowered bud fertility, combined with rain and wind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

Perigee epitomizes this estate vineyard's distinctive cedar and beautiful dark cherry, framed by a structured elegance. It explodes with pretty aromas of spiced cassis and boysenberry, along with tobacco leaf, pencil lead, and cola that are lifted by notes of spring flowers, sage, anise, and thyme. The finish is complex with silky tannins.



HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	SEPTEMBER 10 - OCTOBER 11, 2020
Average tons/acre	3.08
Average Brix	24.9°
Average pH	3.39
Average Acidity	5.6 g/L

WINE DATA

Composition	54% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 24% MERLOT, 12% CABERNET FRANC, 6% MALBEC, 4% PETIT VERDOT
pH	3.70
Total Acidity	6.2 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	JUNE 28, 2022
Release	FALL 2023
Case Production	1,200