

L'Ecole

N^o 41

2021 Merlot Estate Walla Walla Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

L'Ecole N^o 41 is recognized as one of Washington State's top producers of premium Merlot and this estate vineyard blend represents our highest expression of this noble varietal. The elegance and old-world structure of Seven Hills Vineyard adds complexity to the power and minerality of Ferguson Vineyard.

ESTATE VINEYARDS

Seven Hills Vineyard 64% - Wind-blown loess

Ferguson Vineyard 36% - Fractured basalt

These prestigious vineyards are Certified Sustainable and Certified Salmon Safe.

VINTAGE

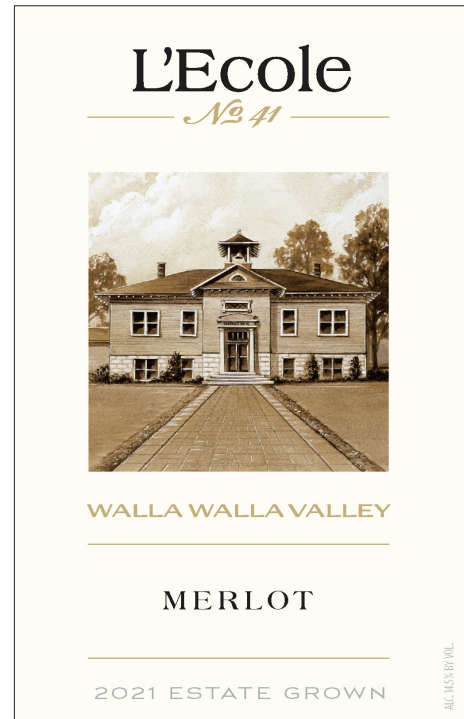
- A hot season yielded to cooler ripening weather during the fall resulting in unusually low yields, intense concentration, high acidity, and outstanding quality in what will likely become a memorable vintage.
- Bud break was average with a 10-day stretch of cold nights putting growers on frost watch.
- Warm spring conditions led to an early bloom, followed by a heat dome with record high temps in late June contributing to lower yields at the end of the season. Summer heat resulted in one of the hottest vintages on record, similar to 2015.
- Harvest started in late August with ideal fall weather leading to a balanced fruit ripening.
- Small berries, low yields, and cool harvest weather produced an outstanding quality vintage.

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 were utilized throughout the entire winemaking process.
- The wine was cleanly racked entirely to small French oak barrels, 30% new, over 18 months. The wine is un-fined and was gently filtered prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES

This expressive Merlot reveals brooding aromatics of Bing cherry, fresh blackberry, cinnamon, savory cedar, and espresso complemented with rose petals and a touch of sage. Its concentrated texture is laced with basalt-driven minerality, and notes of graphite, cocoa, and spice that are complemented by refined tannins leading to a fresh and focused finish.



HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates AUGUST 27 -
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

Average tons/acre 2.0

Average Brix 25.3°

Average pH 3.49

Average Acidity 5.5 g/L

WINE DATA

Composition 82% MERLOT,
14% CABERNET FRANC,
4% CABERNET SAUVIGNON

pH 3.62

Total Acidity 6.1 g/L

Alcohol 14.5%

Bottling Date FEBRUARY 17, 2023

Release FALL 2023

Case Production 1,200