

L'Ecole

No 41

2022 Frenchtown - Red Wine Columbia Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

Frenchtown, Walla Walla Valley's first settlement, was founded by French Canadians in the early 1800s. A thriving viticulture and winemaking community was established in the Valley in the 1860s. This Frenchtown wine salutes these pioneers. With the highest quality in mind, this blend offers exceptional value for its price.

VINTAGE

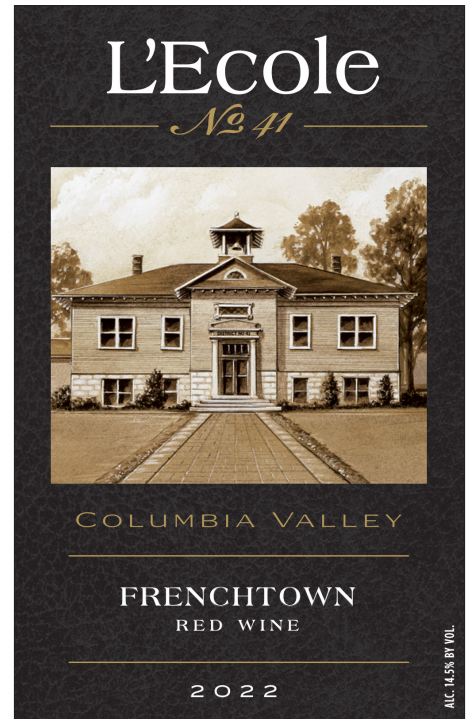
- A cooler-than-average growing season resulted in a late harvest with above-average yields and outstanding wine quality with higher natural acidity, lower sugars, wonderful balance, and a beautiful expression of fruit.
- A warm winter finish resulted in a bud break for early varieties in late March/early April. Bud break for later varieties was delayed due to a cold and snowy April which kept wind machines running followed by a cool and wet May. The weather cooperated at bloom, and we experienced an excellent fruit set with bloom two weeks later than normal.
- July and August were hot with large canopy growth from spring moisture. Mildew pressure was high and caused some problems in isolated vineyards. High heat shut canopies down and prevented excessive berry growth.
- Veraison was two weeks later than normal. A warmer fall with cool nights created perfect late-season ripening conditions, with the majority of harvest occurring in October.
- Long hang time contributed to ideal fruit balance and flavors that developed in advance of sugars, creating an expectation of wonderful 2022 vintage wines. Despite challenges that arose during the growing season, the dice rolled in our favor at each turn.

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 barrel aged 9 months in primarily neutral oak barrels.

TASTING NOTES

An excellent Frenchtown vintage showing a bright, fresh fruit-forward profile of dark cherry, blueberry, red plum, anise, and thyme complemented by violet floral notes. This easy-drinking wine offers an abundance of lively fruit and spice flavors framed by a medium body and finely textured tannins, leading to a harmoniously balanced, juicy, and enduring finish.



WINE DATA

Composition

72% BORDEAUX	28% RHONE
40% Merlot	17% Syrah
21% Cabernet Sauvignon	8% Grenache
6% Cabernet Franc	3% Mourvèdre
4% Petit Verdot	
1% Malbec	

pH 3.72

Total Acidity 5.8 g/L

Alcohol 14.5%

Bottling Dates AUGUST 8-10, 2023

Release FALL 2023

Case Production 6,960