

# L'Ecole

No. 41

## 2021 Ferguson, Estate Ferguson Vineyard Walla Walla Valley

### WINEMAKER COMMENT

Ferguson is L'Ecole's pre-eminent Bordeaux blend, in keeping with our reputation for excellent single-vineyard wines from the Walla Walla Valley. Ferguson reflects the unique terroir expression of its microclimate and geological site.

### FERGUSON VINEYARD

Ferguson Vineyard is a stunning, high-elevation site overlooking a panoramic view of the Walla Walla Valley. With 30 planted acres, vines are rooted in fractured basalt rock from 15-million-year-old ancient lava flows overlaid with a thin layer of wind-blown loess. The vineyard is Certified Sustainable and Certified Salmon Safe.

### VINTAGE

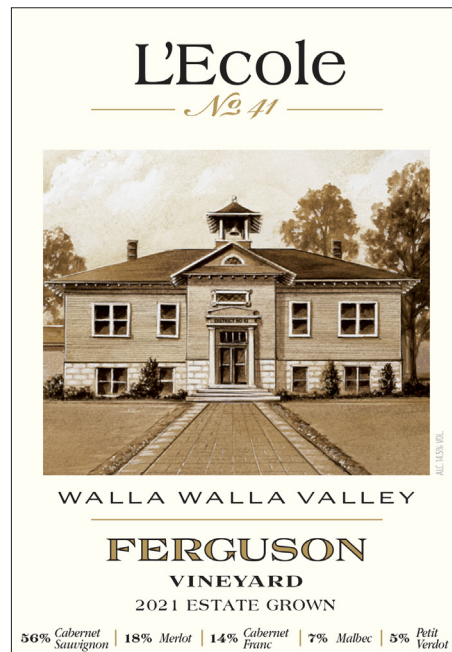
- A hot season yielded to cooler ripening weather during the fall resulting in unusually low yields, intense concentration, high acidity, and outstanding quality in what will likely become a memorable vintage.
- Bud break was average with a 10-day stretch of cold nights putting growers on frost watch.
- 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

- Over 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, 45% new, and barrel-aged for 22 months.

### TASTING NOTES

*With a flavor profile distinctly influenced by its volcanic basalt soil, Ferguson is a richly structured, age-worthy, and energetic wine offering complex, mineral-laced aromas of cassis, blueberry, boysenberry, iron, fresh tobacco, and sandalwood. Layers of black and red fruit flavors are laced with hints of espresso and framed by expressive tannins integrated with crushed rocks and graphite. Intense, racy, and structured, Ferguson's pronounced natural acidity carries through to a compelling and enduring finish.*



### HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates SEPTEMBER 13 - OCTOBER 8, 2021

Average tons/acre 2.50

Average Brix 25.5°

Average pH 3.21

Average Acidity 7.3 g/L

### WINE DATA

Composition 56% CABERNET SAUVIGNON,  
18% MERLOT,  
14% CABERNET FRANC,  
7% MALBEC,  
5% PETIT VERDOT

pH 3.79

Total Acidity 6.2 g/L

Alcohol 14.5%

Bottling Date JUNE 29, 2023

Release SPRING 2024

Case Production 1,400