L'Ecole

№ 41

TOP AWARDS AND REVIEWS

2022 Merlot Estate
Walla Walla Valley

96 PTS

International Wine Report, Jeremy Young - October 2025

The 2022 L'Ecole Nº 41 Ferguson & Seven Hills Vineyards Merlot from the Walla Walla Valley is a striking expression of site and balance, composed of 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. Its deep garnet hue glows with flashes of crimson at the rim, hinting at both vibrancy and depth. The bouquet unfolds with captivating layers of dark cherry, espresso crema, and crushed violet intertwined with graphite and sweet herbs. On the palate, flavors of black raspberry, mocha, and licorice root meld seamlessly with a core of taut, fine-grained tannins. Subtle notes of cedar and sage drift in the background, giving lift and definition to the wine's plush texture. This vintage will only deepen in complexity over the coming decade, revealing more nuance with each passing year. Highly recommended.

94+ PTS

AnthonyMueller.com, Anthony Mueller - September 2026

Dark red-fruited, the 2022 Merlot Estate is rustic and earthy with dark, dusty fruit skin. Very serious, it offers a kiss of potpourri spice and a soft herbal note, alongside a tighter tannic edge. Delightfully youthful, it needs time. Decanting recommended, very food-friendly. Drink 2027-2042.

94 PTS

Northwest Wine Guide, Paul Gregutt - July 2025

This is a 50/50 split between the Ferguson and Seven Hills estate vineyards. Aromatically inviting with a floral top note, crushed strawberries, fresh-picked raspberries and peppery herbs. The complexity in the nose sneaks up on you in the mouth, needing some aeration and attention to be fully expressed. In other words, this isn't a wine that instantly blows you away; but the details are impressive – dried flowers, cannabis, coffee and a dash of fresh cream.

93 PTS

JamesSuckling.com, Andrii Stetsiuk - March 2025

This firm and polished red has aromas and flavors of coffee beans, black plums, cocoa powder and dried mint. It's full-bodied and well structured with tight tannins. 85% Merlot and 15% Cabernet Franc. Seven Hills and Ferguson vineyards. Best after 2026.

93 PTS

Decanter, Clive Pursehouse - March 2025

A wine from two estate vineyards, the Seven Hills and Ferguson sites on the Oregon side of the Walla Walla Valley. It shows ripe fruited depth with ample refinement through savoury herbs and deep violet florals. The palate shows richly spiced black plums, blueberry compote and a rich, sweet earth finish.

93 PTS

OwenBargreen.com, Owen Bargreen - July 2025

The 2022 'Estate' Merlot is a fabulous effort coming from the Ferguson and Seven Hills Vineyards. The wine has 15% Cabernet Franc blended in, as this offers alluring dark florals on the nose alongside blackberry compote, crushed wet rock and shades of dark licorice. The palate is beautifully balanced, showing excellent poise from this slightly cooler vintage. Refined, sleek and elegant, enjoy now and over the next twelve years. Drink 2025-2037

92 PTS, CELLAR STOCKER

Northwest Wine Report, Sean P. Sullivan - March 2025

This wine is equal parts Seven Hills and Ferguson vineyard fruit. Aged 18 months in French oak (30% new), the aromas show notes of raspberry, red plum, dried herb, and spice box. Plump feeling flavors follow, with the elevated acidity that the vintage and Ferguson Vineyard bring. It shows pleasing persistency, a complete delight. Enjoy from 2027 to 2034.

91 PTS

Jeb Dunnuck, Virginie Boone - July 2025

A 50-50 blend of Seven Hills and Ferguson estate vineyard grapes, including 15% Cabernet Franc, the 2022 Merlot Estate aged 18 months in small French oak barrels, 30% new. The berry fruit stands out. Elegantly built, it is medium to full-bodied, succulent, and integrated, fleshy and warm in baking spices on the finish. Give it 5-7 years to hit its prime and 15 years in the cellar.

91 PTS

Vinous, Eric Guido - October 2025

The 2022 Merlot Estate Walla Walla opens with a refined blend of dried black cherries, blueberries, hints of rosemary and cedary spice. It's soothingly round upon entry with cooling acidity and crisp wild berry fruits underscored by a tactile tinge of minerality. A coating of fine tannin frames the experience as the 2022 finishes long and staining with a slight saline resonance.