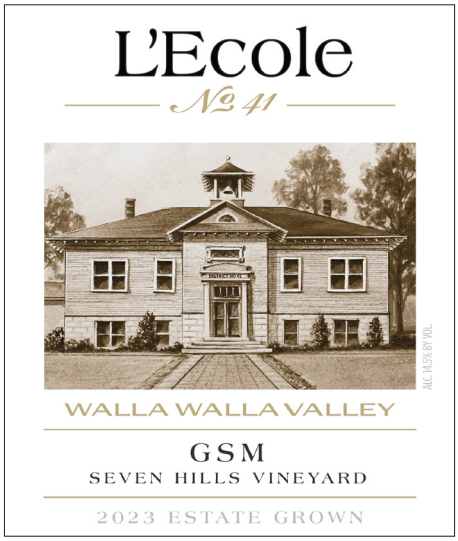
L'Ecole
№ 41

2023 GSM, Estate Seven Hills Vineyard
Walla Walla Valley



WINEMAKER COMMENT
Sourced from our Estate Seven Hills Vineyard, each varietal in this elegant winery-exclusive blend brings unique nuances: beautiful red fruit and floral notes from the Grenache, inviting dark fruit and savory flavors from the Syrah, while the generous portion of Mourvèdre adds spice and peppery notes. Amazingly versatile, this aromatically complex wine is a wonderful fit for a range of cuisines.

SEVEN HILLS VINEYARD
L'Ecole № 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
- A cool spring followed by a warm and dry summer set the stage for a manageable growing season. Heat in August was followed by cooler September temperatures, which led to suppressed yields but resulted in high-quality, abundant fruit expression, and a vintage characterized by remarkable concentration and balance.
- Overall, there was a decrease in crop yields compared to a large harvest in 2022. Partly contributing to this decline were the effects of some winter freeze events.
- The cold winter followed by a cooler spring delayed bud break by two weeks, but a near-record warm May accelerated canopy growth and brought bloom to a normal schedule with relatively low disease pressure. A warm summer with low rainfall accelerated fruit development.
- A short heat spike in August reduced yields and led to some shriveling in certain varieties that were more advanced in development, such as Syrah.
- September cooled, providing excellent hang time and ideal conditions for later-maturing varieties and facilitating a well-paced harvest.
- Quality is outstanding due to low yields resulting in wines with exquisite balance in color, fruitfulness, acidity levels, and phenolic structure.

WINEMAKING
- Nearly 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 to French oak barrels, 10% new and remaining neutral oak, with one racking over 18 months. This wine was gently filtered prior to bottling.

TASTING NOTES
Beautifully aromatic, this Rhône-inspired blend opens with vibrant notes of cherry, red currant, and raspberry, layered with subtle hints of anise, violet, and rose petal. On the palate, flavors of black cherry, dark chocolate, and a touch of black pepper unfold over an elegant structure. Fine-grained tannins and a fresh, lingering finish complete this harmonious wine.

HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	SEPTEMBER 7 - 26, 2023
Average Tons/Acre	2.91
Average Brix	24.3°
Average pH	3.47
Average Acidity	4.7 g/L

WINE DATA

Composition	42% GRENACHE, 32% SYRAH, 26% MOURVÈDRE
pH	3.76
Total Acidity	5.8 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	FEBRUARY 14, 2025
Release	SPRING 2026
Case Production	450

PO BOX 111 ▪ LOWDEN, WASHINGTON 99360 ▪ (509) 525.0940

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