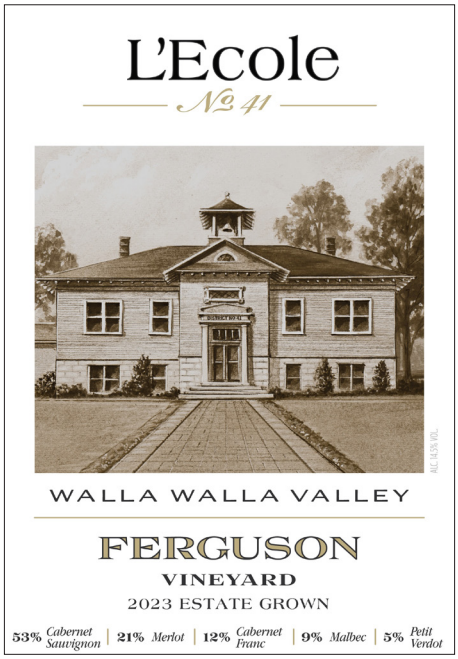
L'Ecole
№41

2023 Ferguson, Estate Ferguson Vineyard
Walla Walla Valley



WINEMAKER COMMENT
Ferguson is L'Ecole's preeminent 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. The 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 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.
- 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
- 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
Shaped by its distinctive volcanic basalt terroir, Ferguson is a powerfully structured, energetic, and cellar-worthy wine. Concentrated aromas of cassis, blackberry, black cherry, graphite, and cedar lead to a palate of mineral-laced dark fruit layered with baking spice and subtle salinity. Expressive yet polished tannins echo the vineyard's basaltic character, while vibrant natural acidity drives a focused, enduring finish.

HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	SEPTEMBER 22 - OCTOBER 14, 2023

WINE DATA

Composition	53% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 21% MERLOT 12% CABERNET FRANC 9% MALBEC, 5% PETIT VERDOT
pH	3.65
Total Acidity	6.3 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	JUNE 10, 2025
Release	FALL 2026
Case Production	1,000

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