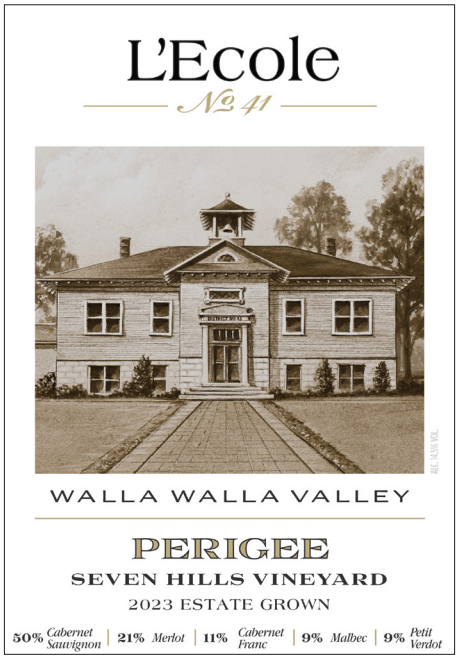
L'Ecole
№ 41

2023 Perigee, Estate Seven Hills Vineyard
Walla Walla Valley



WINEMAKER COMMENT

Our Estate Perigee captures the essence of Seven Hills Vineyard's characteristic rich elegance, seductive aromas, and earthy structure. L'Ecole has been producing wines from Seven Hills Vineyard since 1993. We hand-select our oldest and most distinguished blocks to produce this stunning, flagship wine.

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.
- 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 and 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, 40% new, and barrel-aged for 22 months.

TASTING NOTES

Perigee captures the essence of this estate vineyard through hallmark notes of cedar and fresh, ripe red fruits, including dark cherry, raspberry, and strawberry, all framed by refined structure. Layers of spiced red currant, cocoa, and cigar box are accented by delicate floral notes and savory hints of mint and sage. The finish unfolds with remarkable length and grace, buoyed by vibrant acidity and supported by silky, powder-fine tannins.

HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	SEPTEMBER 11 - OCTOBER 14, 2023

WINE DATA

Composition	50% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 21% MERLOT, 11% CABERNET FRANC, 9% MALBEC, 9% PETIT VERDOT
pH	3.60
Total Acidity	6.3 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	JUNE 11, 2025
Release	FALL 2026
Case Production	1,015

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