

2013 Merlot Columbia Valley

91 Points, Wine Enthusiast, July 2016 Buying Guide

"A variety of top sites are blended together for this wine, including Seven Hills, Bacchus, Dionysus, Klipsun and Pepper Bridge. It offers bright aromas of raspberries and chocolate, with herb and floral accents. The palate is flavorful and full, delivering a lot of enjoyment, with the tannins adding some heft." —S.S.

90 points, - The Wine Advocate, eRobertParker.com, July 2016

"...[T]he 2013 Columbia Valley Merlot is a sexy, plump, mouth-filling effort that's loaded with notions of cassis, plums, licorice and spice. . . ,it has tons of charm and fruit, and will drink nicely for 4-5 years" - Jeb Dunnuck

89 points – Stephen Tanzer, Vinous, November 2016

"Bright dark red. Good spicy lift to the aromas of huckleberry, blueberry, black cherry, mint and menthol, plus a hint of tart pomegranate. Juicy, spicy and energetic; as much red fruit in character as black. Finishes a bit muscular, with firm tannins, a note of bitter chocolate and good savory length. Seven Hills is the largest single component in the blend." - Stephen Tanzer

Outstanding - Great Northwest Wine, August 2016, www.greatnorthwestwine.com

"Looking back, Marty Clubb views the quality of the 2013 vintage alongside those of 1998 and 2003, and the acclaimed Walla Walla winemaker sourced from many of Washington state's top vineyards for this particularly remarkable Merlot. Historic Sagemoor sites Bacchus and Dionysus, StoneTree, Klipsun, Candy Mountain and Pepper Bridge are blended with estate vineyards Ferguson and Seven Hills. The theme of blueberry jam, dusty black cherry, fresh cedar and lavender also offers minerality with crushed basalt. Fine-grained tannins and good acidity make for an easy finish that lingers. And the scale of production for their Columbia Valley Merlot remains consistent, which makes it a good fit in the portfolio for savvy wine merchants." – Andy Perdue and Eric Degerman

The Bellingham Herald: Delicious reds rise to top in Pacific Northwest, March 2016, www.bellinghamherald.com

"Aromas and flavors of refined oak, dark cherry, blackberry and blueberry give way to rich tannins. The team at this Walla Walla Valley winery has showcased Merlot for more than three decades."
- Eric Degerman & Andy Perdue

Excellent, Winepress NW, Fall 2016

"Mike has been the winemaker at this longtime Walla Walla Valley producer for the past decade. This delicious Merlot opens with aromas of white pepper and ripe berry, followed by flavors of strawberry jam, blueberry and pomegranate, all backed by bright acidity and sturdy tannins." - Andy Perdue

Northwest Merlot still shines, Winepress NW, Spring 2016

"This marks Mike Sharon's 10th year as winemaker at iconic L'Ecole No. 41 in the Walla Walla Valley, a winery that has been crafting Merlot since its first vintage in 1983. This plush and polished example opens with exotic aromas of spice, sarsaparilla, sweet oak and ripe dark fruit. On the palate, the fruit emphasizes elegance over richness and is backed by supple tannins and ends with a hint of cherry pipe tobacco." - Andy Perdue

Wines of the Week by Chuck Hill, October 2016, www.winesnw.com

"In the beginning, founders Baker and Jean Ferguson crafted only one red wine to accompany their favorite Semillon – a delicious Merlot. Moving forward from those heady days of the 1980s wine boom, daughter Megan and her husband Marty Clubb have honored that legacy by crafting excellent Merlot wines from each vintage. Crafted from a handful of superb Columbia Valley vineyards, this wine offers the quintessential cherry and red currant aromas and flavors complemented by dried herbs, mineral and hints of toasty oak and caramel." – Chuck Hill

Medals & Competitions

Double Gold – Cascadia Wine Competition, 2016

Silver – Great Northwest Invitational Wine Competition, 2016

Silver – The Jefferson Cup Invitational, 2016

Silver – Rodeo Uncorked! International Wine Competition, 2017