

L'Ecole

No 41

2014 Estate Merlot Walla Walla Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

L'Ecole No 41 is recognized as one of Washington State's top producers of premium Merlot and this estate vineyard blend represents our best. The elegance and old world structure of Seven Hills Vineyard adds complexity to the earthiness and minerality of the basalt soil from Ferguson.

ESTATE VINEYARDS

Fractured basalt – Estate Ferguson 60%

Wind-blown loess – Estate Seven Hills 40%

These prestigious vineyards are all Certified Sustainable and Certified Salmon Safe.

VINTAGE

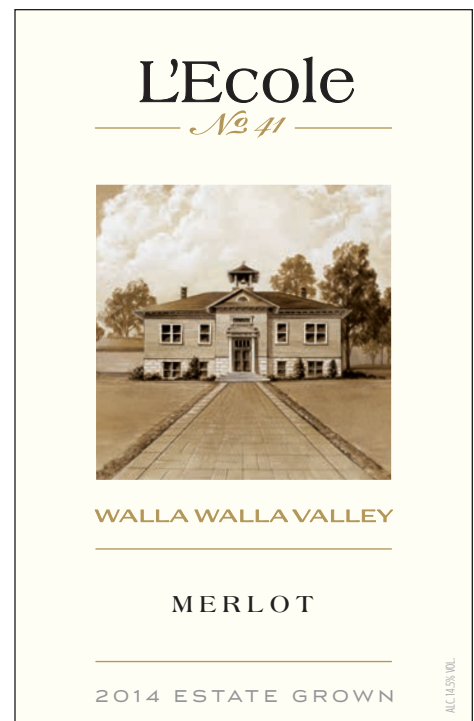
- The 2014 vintage was a repeat of the warm 2013 vintage with heat units nearly identical, and no unusual winter frost, pest, or disease pressure.
- Bud break was early, followed by a warm spring and relatively early bloom. Fruit set was near ideal. Slowing tactics were implemented such as delayed thinning and leafing to delay veraison and ultimately harvest.
- Temperatures cooled mid-August stretching out the hang-time to complete veraison. Berry size and berry count per cluster were slightly up resulting in healthy crop yields.
- Modest fall day-time temperatures and cool nights resulted in a rich and vibrant structure with bold color development. Overall warmer conditions delivered ample sugars and surprisingly strong acids, particularly in our higher elevation sites.

WINEMAKING

- Over 30 years of meticulous vineyard management and winemaking experience are fundamental to the quality of our wines and reputation for excellence. We are engaged in growing and making 100% of our wines.
- 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 100% small French oak barrels, 40% new, with four rackings over 18 months.

TASTING NOTES

This elegant Merlot reveals aromas of clove, dark fruit, cedar and earth. The rich texture of this wine is elevated by dense flavors of black cherry and pomegranate on a complex mineral finish.



HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	SEPTEMBER 25, 2014
Average tons/acre	3.6
Average Brix	25.9°
Average pH	3.46
Average Acidity	5.8 g/L

WINE DATA

Composition	80% MERLOT, 10% CABERNET SAUVIGNON, 10% CABERNET FRANC
pH	3.64
Total Acidity	6.3 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	FEBRUARY 19, 2016
Release Date	JUNE 2017
Case Production	1,240