

# L'Ecole

N<sup>o</sup> 41

## 2019 Merlot Columbia Valley

### WINEMAKER COMMENT

L'Ecole N<sup>o</sup> 41 is recognized as one of Washington State's top producers of excellent Merlot and this wine delivers with great structure, color, and balanced acidity.

### VINEYARDS

Estate Seven Hills, Estate Ferguson, Pepper Bridge - Walla Walla Valley AVA  
Bacchus & Dionysus - White Bluffs AVA  
Candy Mountain - Candy Mountain AVA  
Weinbau - Wahluke Slope AVA

### VINTAGE

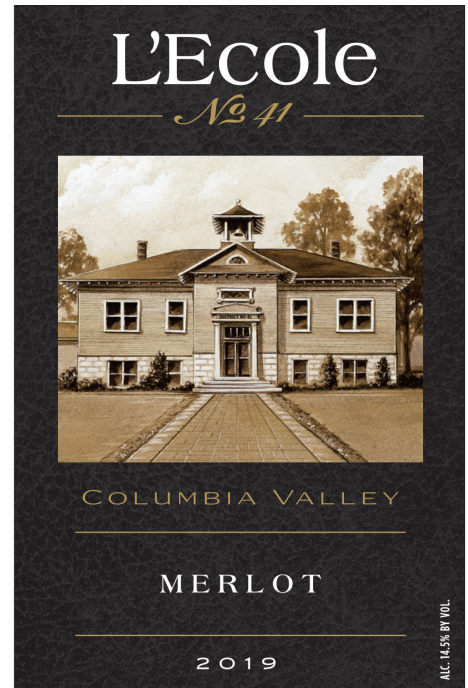
- An overall mild growing season and challenging harvest have nonetheless delivered a high-quality vintage for L'Ecole.
- A cold and snowy February/March delayed field pruning, resulting in budbreak late April to early May. A warm May accelerated canopy growth and the onset of bloom.
- Cooler July temperatures moderated heat unit accumulation with veraison delayed 7 to 10 days from normal. August brought customary warm weather, with only a few heat spikes over 100°F.
- A warm early September initiated a normal harvest, which was slowed due to slightly rainy and cooler conditions. A light frost at the end of September along with a forecast of more freezing weather on its way accelerated picking, with 60% of our fruit harvested the first two weeks of October.
- Freezing weather quickly brought the season to a close the second week of October.
- With delight, we are seeing beautiful and elegant wines, with high natural acidity, and impressive structure.

### WINEMAKING

- Over 36 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 at ideal ripeness and gently crushed into 1.5 and 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 small oak barrels, 20% new, and barrel aged for 16 months.

### TASTING NOTES

*Exhibiting lively aromas of plum and black cherry, accented by tobacco leaf, crushed roses, cedar nuances, this Merlot presents an enchanting old-world character, full-bodied and vigorous, bursting with flavors of macerated berries, coffee, and kirsch. Charming and inviting, it finishes with balance and a satisfying longevity.*



### HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	SEPTEMBER 20 - OCTOBER 18, 2019
Average Brix	24.4°
Average pH	3.34
Average Acidity	5.9 g/L

### WINE DATA

Composition	81% MERLOT, 13% CABERNET FRANC, 3% MALBEC, 3% PETIT VERDOT
pH	3.78
Total Acidity	5.8 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Date	FEBRUARY 14-16, 2021
Release	SUMMER 2022
Case Production	5,100