

L'Ecole

No. 41

2020 Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley

WINEMAKER COMMENT

For 40 years, L'Ecole has built long-term partnerships with the oldest and most proven vineyards, providing access to some of the best fruit in the Columbia Valley. With average vine age of more than 20 years, this wine shows a classic Cabernet Sauvignon profile of firm structure, integrated tannins, and dark expressive fruit.

VINEYARDS

Estate Ferguson, Bacchus, Pepper Bridge, Alder Ridge, Stone Tree, Summit View, Candy Mountain, Estate Seven Hills, Yellowjacket, Loess

VINTAGE

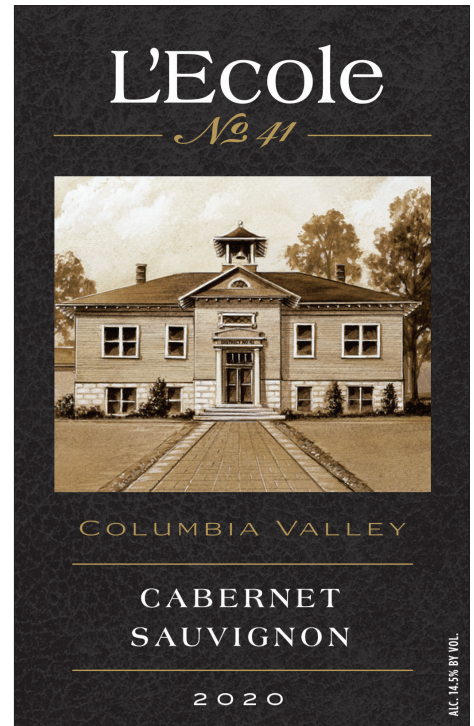
- An easy, mild growing season combined with low yields and a prolonged harvest resulted in wines with wonderful balance, color, and vibrant fruit.
- A normal but quick mid-April bud break was followed by warm spring weather. Freeze events in late 2019 lowered bud fertility, combined with rain and wind during June bloom, which resulted in unusually low yields.
- Heat accumulation tracked the long-term average with veraison on time in early August.
- Older CA/OR wildfire smoke briefly settled into the Columbia Basin the 2nd week of September. Fortunately, the impact on our grapes was negligible since most of the fruit was at a later stage of maturity, combined with the nature of it being older smoke. The diffused sunlight and cooler temperatures slowed ripening, extending harvest well into October.
- The long growing season combined with low yields resulted in wonderful balance, length, and aromatics in the whites, and concentrated flavor, color, texture, and structure in the reds.

WINEMAKING

- 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 at ideal ripeness and gently crushed into 1.5 and 5-ton 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 oak barrels, 20% new, and barrel aged for 22 months.

TASTING NOTES

With its classic Cabernet profile, this expressive wine shows layers of dark fruits, cocoa nib, graphite, and espresso accented by an array of floral notes including lilac and lavender. With blackberry, dark cherry, and cassis on the palate, it is framed with fine tannins which carry through to a flavorful finish.



HARVEST DATA

Harvest Dates	SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 20, 2020
Average Brix	25°
Average pH	3.40
Average Acidity	5.5 g/L

WINE DATA

Composition	100% CABERNET SAUVIGNON
pH	3.77
Total Acidity	5.7 g/L
Alcohol	14.5%
Bottling Dates	JUNE 21 - 23, 2022
Release	SPRING 2023
Case Production	6,300