

# 8 Terrific Washington Reds Up to 92 Points

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**WS** [winespectator.com/articles/tasting-highlights-8-terrific-washington-red-wines-up-to-92-points](https://www.winespectator.com/articles/tasting-highlights-8-terrific-washington-red-wines-up-to-92-points)

Tim Fish

Encompassing 42 acres in Walla Walla Valley, L'Ecole No. 41's Ferguson Estate is a key source of grapes for the winery's impressive reds, including its Syrah. (Courtesy of L'Ecole No. 41)

## Tasting Highlights

New reviews of Syrahs and Cabernet Sauvignons from the Evergreen State, most priced \$40 or less

Jul 31, 2023

*Tasting Highlights' wine reviews are fresh out of the tasting room, offering a sneak peek of our editors' most recent scores and notes to WineSpectator.com members.*

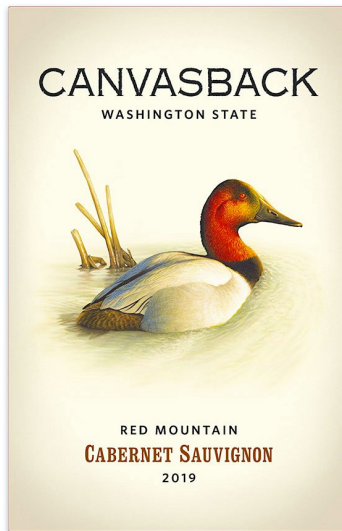
Washington state is a wine powerhouse, second only to California in the number of cases made annually, and its Syrahs and Cabernet Sauvignons increasingly rival what the Golden State has to offer. This week's selection of new releases makes that abundantly clear with well-priced wines rated at least 90 points.

Founded by Chris Upchurch, Jay Soloff and Greg and Charles Lill, DeLille Cellars marked its 30th year in the business in 2022 and launched a new line of approachable and affordable wines named Métier. While DeLille focuses on single-vineyard bottlings, winemaker Jason Gorski blends the Métier wines from grapes grown throughout Columbia Valley. The 2021 Cabernet—with good energy and refined flavors of blackberry, dusky spice and black olive—is impressive at its \$30 price.

Washington native Meredith Hyslop started Top Source in 2020 after studying enology and viticulture in Walla Walla and earning her stripes in the cellars of southern France's Languedoc-Roussillon region for 12 years. Her precise and zesty 2020 Columbia Valley red blend is 60 percent Grenache and 40 percent Syrah, and is priced competitively at just \$30.

As the name suggests, the Two Vintners label represents a partnership; more specifically, these wines come from winemaker Morgan Lee and Cindy and David Lawson of Covington Cellars. An Indiana native, Lee joined Covington in 2007, and they launched Two Vintners two years later. Their 2020 Syrah is a blend of grapes from eight sites, including the highly regarded Boushey Vineyard, and 65 percent of the wine was whole-cluster fermented and aged in French oak puncheons for 18 months. The result is a compact and firmly structured Syrah with dark fruit, pepper and licorice notes.

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## CANVASBACK

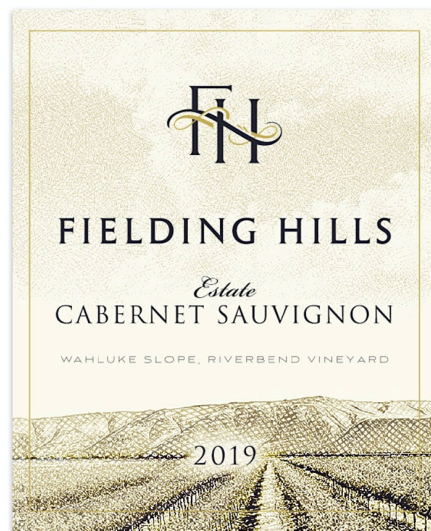
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Cabernet Sauvignon Red Mountain 2019

Score: 92 | \$44

**WS review:** Precisely structured, rich yet elegantly firm, this red is generous, with blackberry, dried sage and olive flavors that finish with broad-shouldered tannins. Drink now through 2030. 11,864 cases made.—*Tim Fish*

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## FIELDING HILLS

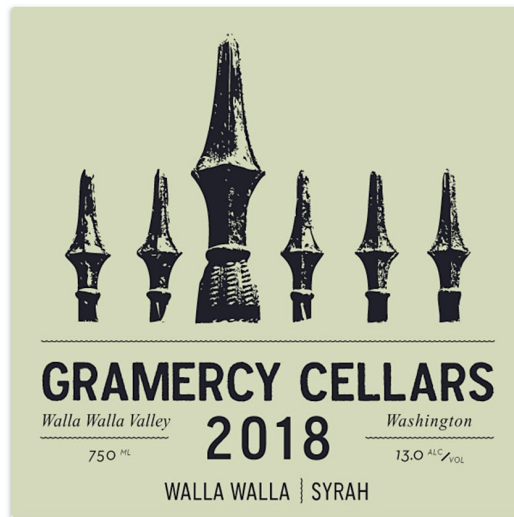
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Cabernet Sauvignon Wahluke Slope Riverbend Vineyard 2019

Score: 92 | \$50

**WS review:** A handsome red that balances polish and a detailed structure, with black cherry and plum flavors that show tarragon and pencil lead accents as this builds toward fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2032. 501 cases made.—*T.F.*

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## GRAMERCY CELLARS

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Syrah Walla Walla Valley 2018

Score: 92 | \$40

**WS review:** Svelte and refined, with detailed black cherry, pepper and grilled anise flavors that slowly unfurl toward fine-grained tannins. Drink now through 2029. 910 cases made.—*T.F.*

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## BOOKWALTER

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Syrah Wahluke Slope Readers 2021

Score: 91 | \$28

**WS review:** Generous and zesty, with lively raspberry, smoked pepper and sweet anise flavors that pick up speed toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2031. 917 cases made.—*T.F.*

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## DELILLE

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Cabernet Sauvignon Columbia Valley Métier 2021

Score: 91 | \$30

**WS review:** Offers good energy and refined flavors of blackberry, dusky spices and black olive that build structure toward medium-grained tannins. Drink now through 2031. 16,000 cases made.—*T.F.*

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## TOP SOURCE

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Columbia Valley 2020

Score: 90 | \$30

**WS review:** Precise and zesty, with raspberry and guava flavors laced with savory herbs and cracked pepper, finishing with lively tannins. Grenache and Syrah. Drink now through 2029. 926 cases made.—*T.F.*

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## TWO VINTNERS

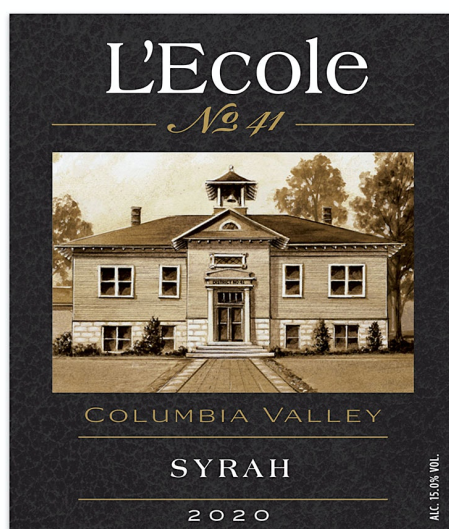
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Syrah Columbia Valley 2020

Score: 90 | \$28

**WS review:** Compact and firmly structured, with brawny blackberry, cracked pepper and licorice flavors that persist toward firm tannins. Best after 2034. 1,100 cases made.—*T.F.*

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## L'ECOLE NO. 41

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Syrah Columbia Valley 2020

Score: 89 | \$27

**WS review:** Brooding and compact, with black raspberry and licorice flavors that struggle to emerge from such broad tannins, but this pulls it off at the end. Best after 2024. 2,650 cases made.—*T.F.*

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*Get more scores and tasting notes for recently rated Syrahs and Cabernets from Washington state.*