



OUTSTANDING WASHINGTON ESTATE

PEPPER BRIDGE WINERY

WALLA WALLA VALLEY

The McKibben, Goff & Pellet Families *Proprietors*
Norm McKibben *Managing Partner*
Jean-François Pellet *Winemaker*



Since the inaugural 1998 vintage, Pepper Bridge's exceptional wines have showcased the sustainably-farmed Pepper Bridge and Seven Hills Vineyards, widely considered two of Washington's finest grape sources. Both vineyards are certified Salmon Safe and sustainable by VINEA and LIVE. Built into a hill and surrounded by Pepper Bridge Vineyard, the three-level winery is a state-of-the-art, gravity-flow facility with subterranean caves. Attention to detail and enhanced functionality were driving forces behind the design and construction: controlling movement from sorting table to barrel, gravity flow prevents seed-shearing, protects aromatic and palate elements, and results in elegant textures and exquisite fruit character.

Managing partner/founder Norm McKibben has played key roles at Canoe Ridge and the Hogue, and has worked closely with Leonetti, Woodward Canyon, L'Ecole N° 41 and Andrew Will. Named "Grape Grower of the Year" by the WA Assn of Wine Grape Growers, McKibben has been instrumental in developing state-of-the-art irrigation systems, soil moisture/temperature monitoring equipment, and sustainable farming techniques throughout Walla Walla.

Recruited after four years at Heitz, third-generation winegrower Jean-François Pellet is now one of Walla Walla's more esteemed winemakers: "This is a great adventure. Walla Walla impressed me right away as an extremely unique grape-growing area. Distinctive climate, soils and geography make it different than anywhere else in the world, and now we have the chance to incorporate the latest winery design and techniques with the very high-quality grapes."

MERLOT

Merlot, Malbec, Cab Franc, and Cab Sauv blended from Pepper Bridge and Seven Hills Vineyards, aged in French oak.

*Parker's WA on the 2008: **91+** points* "The new releases begin with the 2008 Merlot which contains 10% Cabernet Franc and 5% Malbec in the blend. The fruit was sourced nearly equally from Pepper Bridge and Seven Hills and was aged for 20 months in 47% new oak. Asian spices, incense, violets, cassis, and black cherry lead to a wine with a solid core of savory fruit, plenty of structure, and excellent balance. It will evolve for 2-3 years and drink well through 2023."

*Wine Enthusiast on the 2007: **93** points* "What is particularly striking is how it displays enticing floral aromas over deliciously thick fruit, with streaks of coffee, chocolate and forest floor delicately laid in."

*Parker's WA on the 2007: **91** points* "Medium purple-colored, it displays a nose of sage, olives, balsam wood, cassis, and black currant. Medium-bodied, ripe, and layered on the palate, this is a savory, spicy Merlot that will evolve for 2-3 years and drink well through 2022."

*Wine & Spirits on the 2007: **BEST MERLOT OF THE YEAR***

CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Cab Sauv-dominated blend with Merlot, Cab Franc, Malbec and Petit Verdot from Seven Hills and Pepper Bridge Vineyards; aged 20 months in a mix of new and used French oak barrels.

*Parker's WA on the 2008: **93** points* "A glass-coating opaque purple color, it gives up an enticing nose of balsam wood, Asian spices, incense, leather, violets, and assorted black fruits. In the glass it opens to reveal an opulent, layered Cabernet that exhibits both power and elegance. This lengthy, already complex wine will continue to blossom for several more years and drink well through 2023."

San Francisco Chronicle: "Top Choice for the 2008 Vintage" "Winemaker Jean-Francois Pellet must have a mind-meld going on with Walla Walla, because his efforts with Pepper Bridge are so consistently good. Here's how Washington Cab stands up for itself in the global fray: Remarkably floral and mineral-driven, with stylish wood (48 percent new oak) and black tea, coffee and fresh cherry and plum fruit. Beautifully stitched with an impressive chock of tannin that will reward five years aging or more."

*Parker's WA on the 2007: **92** points* "The 2007 Cabernet Sauvignon contains 10% Merlot, with the rest Cabernet Franc, Malbec, and Petit Verdot. It was aged for 21 months in 52% new French oak. Deep purple in color, it exhibits an attractive perfume of cedar, Asian spices, mineral, incense, and black currant. Medium-bodied on the palate with excellent volume, concentration, and balance, it has the stuffing to evolve for 3-4 years. This lengthy effort will be at its best from 2013 to 2027."

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