



## 2011 Collaboration Series I

### Overview

Force Majeure Vineyards produces small quantities of Bordeaux- and Rhone-based wines from Eastern Washington's celebrated Red Mountain AVA. Launched by Paul and Susan McBride in 2004 under the name Grand Reve Vintners, the winery has been making highly-acclaimed, terroir-driven wines under the Force Majeure moniker since the 2009 vintage. The winery achieved critical praise for its Collaboration Series that featured fruit from the iconic Ciel de Cheval vineyard vinified by some of Washington's top winemakers. In 2010 Force Majeure began producing wine from their Estate Vineyard, a steep, rocky site on the upper slopes of Red Mountain. In 2014, the winery hired Todd Alexander - a talented winemaker who had previously worked at Napa Valley's Bryant Family Vineyard - to serve as head winemaker and general manager.



### Vineyard and Winemaking

The 2011 Collaboration Series I is our homage to Bordeaux' Left Bank. The fruit was harvested from some of the oldest vines at Ciel du Cheval, including the 1975 and 1982 blocks that were planted in sandy loam soils over lime-cemented flood gravels. The wine was aged for 28 months in French oak barrels (70% new).

### Tasting Notes

What sets this wine apart from so many other New World Red Bordeaux blends is its combination of concentration and structure. The aromatics combine cedar, ripe black fruit, forest floor and minerals. The acid is firm and the tannins are harmonious. This is a multi-layered wine with both the foundation and stuffing to age well into the next decade.

### Technical Data

Blend	64% Cabernet Sauvignon, 12% Cabernet Franc, 12% Petit Verdot, 12% Merlot
AVA	Red Mountain
Vineyard	Ciel du Cheval
Cooperage	70% New French Oak, 30% Neutral French Oak
Winemaker	Ben Smith
Viticulture	Force Majeure
Alcohol	14.2%
Cases	200
Website	fm-wine.com