



2011 Collaboration Series II

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 grapes for our Collaboration Series II came from the famed Ciel du Cheval vineyard on Red Mountain. It was conceived and vinified by winemaker Ross Mickel in a decidedly Northern Rhone (Cote Rotie) style. The wine is comprised of 96% Syrah co-fermented with 2% each of Viognier and Roussanne, It was aged for roughly 20 months in French oak barrels (33% new).

Tasting Notes

While this Syrah shows great concentration, the real story here is balance. The nose leans towards the subtle end of the spectrum with suggestions of leather, red fruit and earth. The palate is rich and bold without being heavy or ponderous. A healthy dose of acidity and fine tannins make this the perfect accompaniment to wide array of foods.

Technical Data

Blend	96% Syrah, 2% Viognier, 2% Rousanne
AVA	Red Mountain
Vineyard	Ciel du Cheval
Cooperage	33% new French, 67% neutral French barrels
Winemaker	Ross Mickel
Alcohol	14.3%
Cases	180
Website	fm-wine.com