



2011 Collaboration Series III

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 III was vinified by winemakers Mark McNeilly and Mike MacMorran. It is composed of four distinct Syrah clones (ENTAV 383, 174, Tablas, Shiraz) grown at the celebrated Ciel du Cheval vineyard on Red Mountain. The wine was racked once and aged 20 months in Burgundy barrels, 33% of which were new.

Tasting Notes

This 100% pure, single-vineyard wine beautifully showcases the terroir of the Ciel du Cheval vineyard through the lens of Syrah. It is appropriately dark and well-scented with plums, cedar and forest floor. On the palate the wine is big, lush and tannic. A subtle gamy undertone adds to the wine's complexity.

Technical Data

Blend	100% Syrah (4 clones: ENTAV 383, 174, Tablas, Shiraz)
AVA	Red Mountain
Vineyard	Ciel du Cheval
Cooperage	33% new French, 67% neutral French barrels
Winemaker	Mark McNeilly and Mike MacMorran
Alcohol	14.7%
Cases	220
Website	fm-wine.com