

FORCE MAJEURE

2022 Force Majeure Red Mountain Estate Viognier

Force Majeure 2022 Red Mountain Estate Viognier – Thick, rich, ripe and mouthcoating to a degree rare with any Northwest Viogniers, this is the wine to pour for any of your tasting pals who profess not to like this grape. Yes, some Viogniers can be thin, sharp, it can be grassy, or hot... but when it's full-bodied, loaded with tree fruits, framed with supple acids, and mouth-filling to the point where you grab the glass for the next gulp... when it's like this. That's when you load up the cellar and make this your summer 2024 big bold white wine. This is a mailing list only wine, as very little is grown, and some is used to co-ferment with Syrah. But if your quest is rich, satiating, balanced white wines, not too oaky, fruit-driven and pure – track down a bottle of this (it's scheduled for a July release). 80 cases **97 points PAUL GREGUTT**

2021 Force Majeure Red Mountain Estate Syrah

The 2021 Syrah Red Mountain Estate is a sensational wine in the making. Offering incredible aromatics of ripe black fruits, cassis, ground pepper, and violets, it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, a silky, layered, concentrated mouthfeel, and beautiful tannins. It picks up a remarkable sense of minerality with time in the glass and this is one heavenly Syrah that will evolve for two decades. The blend is 99% Syrah and 1% Viognier, fermented with 15% stems and aging in larger format French oak. 401 cases. **97-99 points JEB DUNNUCK**

This is a world class Syrah. Co-fermented with 2% Viognier, it exhibits an inky ruby-crimson color and an intense nose of wild fruits - blackberries, mountain blueberries, black currants - with scents of crushed black roses, sweet tobacco, garrigue (lavender and herbs), olive tapenade, smoked meats and smoldering oriental incense. The flavors are massive, yet precisely proportioned, with layers of lavish dark fruits that are infused with licorice root, 85% cacao, Sumatra roast and Red Mountain scorched earth and minerals. The penetration continues on the back with sensations of macerated fruits, roasted walnuts, crème de cassis, suede leather and lanolin (“legs”), charcoal stick and integrated oak. The spiced (nutmeg, clove) finish is deep and penetrating, seemingly endless with

precisely balanced tannins and acids. When it comes to Red Mountain Syrah, this has it all.

20/20 points RAND SEALEY

Just as good as the SJR Vineyard Syrah, the Red Mountain Estate is equally lovely, and it was splitting hairs to determine what I loved more. Boasting a shimmering medium to dark purple core with a neon purple rim in the glass, it is almost entirely Syrah with just 1% Viognier, which gives it a lovely lift on the nose. I adored the rich black plum and boysenberry notes on the nose that played first chair to the secondary notes of ground black peppercorns, dried violet flowers, mountain sagebrush, citrus pith, and shades of allspice. Full-bodied and wonderfully structured across the palate, it finishes with lush tannins and mouthwatering acidity. Another beautiful Syrah from winemaker Todd Alexander that will age well for another 10-15 years. A little over 400 cases produced. Highly recommended and editor's choice.

99 Points, JEREMY YOUNG, *International Wine Report*

97 points, Decanter

Co-fermented with Viognier (as is traditional in France), this Red Mountain Syrah is packed with black fruits, cassis, black pepper, graphite and dried sage. The tannins, as you'd suspect from Red Mountain fruit, are muscular, polished and built to age. 400 cases;

94 points, PAUL GREGUTT

This 2021 Red Mountain Syrah comes from 11 acre hillside set on fractured basalt that is tightly spaced. The wine was given 15% whole cluster fermentation and has a touch of Viognier blended in. The palate is soft and seamless with serious verve and concentration. Weightless and loaded with dense black and blue fruit flavors, with creme de violette, Turkish coffee accents, this is quite simply the finest Syrah you will find on Red Mountain. What a stunner! Drink 2024-2040-

99 points OWEN BARGREEN

2021 Force Majeure Red Mountain Estate Grenache

From vines planted in 2015 and 100% Grenache, the 2021 Grenache Red Mountain Estate reveals a medium ruby hue as well as a great, classic nose of kirsch, wild strawberries, wildflowers, and spice. Beautifully textured, medium to full-bodied, round, and voluptuous, it's a gorgeous Grenache that will evolve for 10-15 years.

94-96 points JEB DUNNUCK

The 2021 Force Majeure Grenache is a stunning example of Grenache from Washington State. Scintillating aromas of crushed wild strawberries, mountain wildflowers, dusty earth, grated cloves, white pepper, and rose petals keep you coming back for more. Moving to the palate, it's more herbal and earthy than the nose but still delivers those wonderful

dusty red fruit flavors across the tongue. Ripe, silky tannins, a medium to full body, mouthwatering acidity, and a long finish complete the wine. Highly recommended.

96 Points JEREMY YOUNG, *International Wine Report*

This is the first vintage for this estate Grenache. The original vines date from 2006. This is pure varietal, one third whole cluster, all concrete ferment followed by 18 months in used French oak. I can remember a time when it was accepted truth that no Grenache could be successfully grown in Washington. A wine of this stature pays homage to all those growers and winemakers who ignored that advice and forged ahead. This is brilliant work from a truly gifted winemaker. Rich, ripe, juicy, slightly crunchy red berry/cherry fruits are annotated with candied orange. Touches of baking spices, cocoa powder, coffee grounds and on it goes. 213 cases

98 points PAUL GREGUTT

This 2021 Grenache is sourced from a center portion of the vineyard, as the vines are head trained. Stored in concrete for 18 months, this shows beautiful red rose petals alongside pomegranate seed notes and concentrated loganberry notes. The palate is plush and loaded with richness with serious underlying verve. Stunning and savory, this is drinking so well even in its heady youth. Drink 2024-2038-

97 points OWEN BARGREEN

Fruit for this wine was fermented in concrete, 35% whole cluster. It was subsequently aged 18 months in large format, used oak. Aromas of peppery spice, dried herb, anise, black raspberry, and blackberry lead to full-bodied, intense, ripe, luxurious red and black fruit flavors. There's richness for sure, in abundance, but also precision and detail. The pillowy-soft texture heightens the interest and enjoyment. The finish goes on for a minute-plus. It's absurdly delicious, an accomplishment of a wine. Best after 2026. 15% alcohol. Natural cork. 213 cases produced.

96 points SEAN SULLIVAN

2021 Force Majeure Red Mountain Estate Parvata Blend

The GSM blend of the estate, the 2021 Parvata is deep ruby-hued and offers a deeper blackberry, almost blue-fruited style as well as lots of violets, scorched earth, and bouquet garni-driven aromatics. It's another gorgeous, seamless, full-bodied, textured wine from this estate. The blend is 46% Syrah, 39% Mourvedre, and 15% Grenache, all from the estate vineyard on Red Mountain, which will spend 18 months in just 15% new French oak. 212 cases.

94-96+ points JEB DUNNUCK

This is a powerful blend of, 45% Mourvèdre and 40% Syrah and 15% Grenache. It exhibits a deep ruby-crimson color and seductive aromas of wild fruits - blackberries, mountain blueberries, black currants – with scents of crushed roses, sweet tobacco, garrigue,

orange peel, olive tapenade and spiced oriental incense. The flavors are bold and mouth filling, with loads of dark fruits that are intermixed with licorice, 85% cacao, espresso and Red Mountain scorched earth. On the back, the wine intensifies further with sensations of macerated berries, roasted nuts, mocha, framboise and cassis liqueurs, recurring orange peel and charcoal, followed by a long, complex, savory (cardamom, clove), firm yet satiny sweet-dry tannin finish that is supported by precise fruit acids.

19.5/20 points RAND SEALEY

Checking in at 46% Syrah, 39% Mourvedre, and 15% Grenache with all Red Mountain fruit, it rested for approximately 18 months in 15% new French oak. Presenting a stunning deep neon ruby-blue core and a neon purple rim, it screams sense of place on the nose - think notes of crushed blackberries, dried mountain sage, pink peppercorns, wet earth, and lovely dried flower notes. It carries a bold, full-bodied mouthfeel and finishes rich with a lovely saline and olive tone that sits on the back palate. Just 212 cases made. Highly recommended.

96 Points JEREMY YOUNG, *International Wine Report*

Parvata is Sanskrit for mountain and the name has been given to this GSM blend of 46% Syrah, , 39% Mourvèdre and 15%Grenache, fermented as before in concrete and stainless prior to aging in large format 15% new French oak. A Red Mountain take on a classic southern Rhone wine, this has tightly-packed flavors of raspberry and black cherry, annotated with hints of black pepper, ground coffee, peat and graphite. Dense, dark and textural, it's got a lot of coiled power, and needs decanting well ahead of drinking. Optimal drinking 2028 to 2040. 200 cases

94 points PAUL GREGUTT

The 2021 'Parvata' combines 46% Syrah with 39% Mourvèdre and the remainder Grenache. Stored in 15% new French oak, this is up there with the finest Parvata that I have tasted. Heady dark fruits combine with chocolate, garrigue, coffee grounds and smoked meats on the palate. Deep and rich, this is a stunning bottling that is already nicely evolved. Drink 2024-2038

97 points OWEN BARGREEN

2021 Force Majeure Walla Walla Estate Syrah

The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Walla Walla Valley Estate comes from 1998 plantings and is 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot. It has some exotic, bloody blue fruits as well as incredible complexity in its lavender, violet, iron, and spice-driven aromatics. Medium to full-bodied and balanced, with fine tannins and terrific purity, it's another gorgeous wine in the making. There are 225 cases, so not much to go around. The élevage here will span 22 months in 75% new French oak.

96-98 points JEB DUNNUCK

From a vineyard adjacent to the winery, this is a superb rendition of “The Rocks” Syrah. From the first sniff and sip, it hits with a bang. Semi opaque ruby-crimson colored, it emits intoxicating, perfumed aromas of wild fruits – blackberries, mountain blueberries, black currants – with scents of crushed roses, sweet tobacco, wild lavender, sandalwood, olive tapenade, violets and sultry incense. The flavors show terrific varietal purity, with mouth encompassing, multi layered black and blue fruits that are infused with licorice, Swiss chocolate, extra dark roast coffee beans and distinct, but not too assertive Rocks loess and cobblestone earth and minerals. The wine intensifies further on the back with pressed berries, roasted nuts, crème de cassis, blueberry preserves and ground charcoal, followed by an ultra-long, varietally pure, terroir-driven spice dusted (nutmeg, clove) finish. This has it all from beginning to end.

20/20 points RAND SEALEY

The scintillating Estate Syrah from Force Majeure comes from The Rocks District and is another wonderful, and nearly perfect, Syrah from the area. Evoking notes of blue plums, wild blueberries, lavender, roasted game, white grapefruit zest, and cedary herbs, it is a deep and luxuriant Syrah that gifts a velvety finish and perfect mouthwatering acidity. You can’t go wrong with any of the 2021 Syrahs from Force Majeure, so pick them up if you can find them. About 350 cases were crafted.

98 Points JEREMY YOUNG, *International Wine Report*

The outstanding 2021 Force Majeure ‘Walla Walla Estate’ Syrah was stored for 18 months in used large format French oak before bottling. The nose comes off fragrant and very stony with wet gravel notes that combine with huckleberry, dried herbs and shades of milk chocolate. The palate is soft and seamless, with serious verve and a pillowy mouthfeel. Rich and layered, this is a gorgeous wine from this estate vineyard that is showing some serious promise. Drink 2024-2038

98 points OWEN BARGREEN

2021 Force Majeure SJR Vineyard Syrah

More purple fruits, iron, leafy herbs, and floral notes emerge from the 2021 Syrah SJR Vineyard, a beautifully textured, medium to full-bodied Syrah that has a round, seamless, ultra-pure style. All Syrah from a great vineyard in the Rocks region of the Walla Walla Valle, it was mostly destemmed and will spend 18 months in larger format, used French oak. There are a tiny 82 cases produced.

96-98 points JEB DUNNUCK

This is a superb rendition of “The Rocks” Syrah. Semi opaque ruby colored, it emits intense aromas of wild fruits – blackberries, mountain blueberries, black currants – crushed roses, pipe tobacco, wild lavender, sandalwood, olive tapenade, orange peel, bacon, violets and sultry incense. The flavors show terrific varietal purity, with mouth encompassing, multi layered black and blue fruits that are infused with licorice, 85% cacao, extra dark roast

coffee beans and distinct, but not too assertive Rocks loess and cobblestone earth and minerals. The wine intensifies further on the back with pressed berries, roasted nuts, crème de cassis, blueberry preserves, recurring orange peel and ground charcoal, followed by an ultra-long, varietally pure, terroir-driven spice dusted (nutmeg, clove) finish.

20/20 points RAND SEALEY

Force Majeure's Syrahs are always at the top of my wish list every single year, and the 2021s are the best Todd Alexander has made so far. Resting 18 months on neutral French oak barrels, it allows the fruit to really shine through without anything it up. With fruit coming from The Rocks, you recognize that lovely funk immediately on the nose. I understand that it's polarizing, but I can't get enough of it. Bacon fat, crushed marionberries, dried purple flowers, pink grapefruit zest, black olive tapenade, and scorched wet earth tones spill from the glass on the nose and on the palate. The texture is bold and beautiful, with ripe tannins and perfect levels of acidity. Enjoy this one over the next 15 years with proper cellaring. Only 80 cases made. Highly recommended and editor's choice.

100 Points JEREMY YOUNG, International Wine Report

This is 18% whole cluster goodness, fermented and aged in a combination of concrete and neutral French oak. The wine's aromas are nice and earthy, with leather, loamy soils and clove encircling a bowl of black currants. There are blueberries, sourdough bread and cinnamon spice flavors, with a touch of bacon. Velvety tannins

94 points MICHAEL ALBERTY, Wine Enthusiast

SJR is the Rocks District vineyard of the Delmas winery, and the Force Majeure versions of this wine are always exceptional. The density stands out even more than the expected Rocks District funk, which seems to play an accent role here rather than starring in the lead. The fruit is pushed front and center, a lush mix of berries and cherries and plums and golden raisins. The concentration of the fruit drives the flavors down through the palate while adding layers of breakfast tea, crushed flowers, tapenade and blood sausage. The legendary Rocks District funk seems subdued, which for my palate is a good thing, as the brilliant, expressive fruit goes back to being front and center. 82 cases; 14.6%; \$85 (Walla Walla)

98 points PAUL GREGUTT

The really good 2021 Force Majeure 'SJR Vineyard' Syrah is a stunning wine that is showing marvelously now at the three year mark. Once on the nose this offers hoisin sauce alongside huckleberry and black currant notes with wet stone. The palate is soft and refined with serious richness and underlying tension. Utterly seamless, very stony and terroir-laden, this is the finest rendition of this bottling yet — perfection in a bottle. This will easily go for ten plus years, but why wait? Drink 2024-2036

100 points OWEN BARGREEN

2021 Force Majeure Red Mountain Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

A wine that's going to be a candidate for perfection is the 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Red Mountain Estate, which is 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, and 1% Petit Verdot that was vinified in a mix of stainless steel and concrete tanks and will spend 22 months in 78% new French oak. Sensational notes of cassis, crushed stone, tobacco, and lead pencil shavings give it a Pauillac-like character, and it's full-bodied, incredibly concentrated, has building tannins, and a great mid-palate. It's an incredible, possibly legendary, Washington State Cabernet Sauvignon. 613 cases.

98-100 JEB DUNNUCK

Another instant classic from winemaker Todd Alexander and Force Majeure this one the 2021 Red Mountain Estate Cabernet Sauvignon. A perfect combination of 94% Cabernet Sauvignon, 5% Merlot, and 1% Petit Verdot that spent about 22 months in 75% new French oak barrels. Phenomenal notes of crushed boysenberries, cassis, sweet baking spices, cracked peppercorn, wet stones, dried desert mountain sagebrush, and wet earth give this astonishing bottle of Cab what it needs for perfection. It doesn't sit on the palate, it glides across it with crunchy tannins that are firm yet giving. Give this wine another year or so in the bottle before enjoying and then cellar it for 15-20 years. A little over 600 cases produced. Highly recommended and editor's choice.

100 Points JEREMY YOUNG *International Wine Report*

The 2021 Force Majeure 'Red Mountain' Cabernet Sauvignon is a stunning wine that has otherworldly potential. This is a bit backwards right now but you can see the potential in this head-turning Cabernet. Loaded with dense blackberry, huckleberry sandalwood and sagebrush notes, with Turkish coffee, this is a massive, brooding Cabernet Sauvignon that will satisfy for decades to come. Give this another year or two in the bottle and this is going to blow your mind. Drink 2025-2050

100 points OWEN BARGREEN

The Red Mountain estate Cabernet Sauvignon comes from 15-year-old vines in deep, loamy soils that contain fractured basalt, ash and granite from the Missoula floods. A small amount of Merlot is in the blend. It shows the firm, tight concentration of classic Red Mountain Cab, albeit from relatively young vines. Good grip, compact berry and cherry fruit, and trailing touches of pipe tobacco keep the flavors developing. As with all Todd Alexander wines it is highly recommended that you aerate, decant and enjoy this wine over many hours if not days. Drink now to 2040 and beyond. 600 cases

96 points PAUL GREGUTT

My core belief that no wine can be perfect is seriously challenged by this otherworldly Cabernet Sauvignon. The saline aroma of driftwood transitions to crushed raspberry, mineral and graphite scents. Flavors of black cherry compote and black tea are

counterpointed by the bitter bite of nettles. Leathery tannins and jangly acidity are equally matched. Editors' Choice.

97 points MICHAEL ALBERTY *Wine Enthusiast*

2021 Force Majeure Red Mountain Estate Epinette Blend

The 2021 Épinette (62% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Cabernet Sauvignon) is closed and tight, yet has promising notes of red and blue fruits, flowers, and chalky minerality. This medium to full-bodied, concentrated blend has beautiful purity of fruit and great tannins. 225 cases.

94-97 points JEB DUNNUCK

This new Épinette vintage is 62% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc and 16% Cabernet Sauvignon, fermented in concrete and stainless steel vats, then given 22 months in 65% new oak. It starts with a mouth-drying astringency (concrete can do that) that needs aeration to soften. Red Mountain Merlot is a different beast from other, softer, broader Washington Merlots – more focused, precise and penetrating. This responds well to aeration; it's dense and detailed with layers of black fruits, cassis, baking chocolate, tobacco and savory herbs. Smoother drinking on day two; still delicious on day three. 225 cases

96 points PAUL GREGUTT

The 2021 Force Majeure 'Epinette' Red Wine is a beautifully floral bottling that is showing marvelously now at the three year mark. The palate is plush with serious weight and texture. Deep and concentrated in its black forest cake and loganberry notes, with espresso grounds and graphite, this is a stunning blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot that is going to live on for a really long time to come. Drink 2024-2045

99 points OWEN BARGREEN

Checking in at 62% Merlot, 22% Cabernet Franc, and 16% Cabernet Sauvignon, the gorgeous 2021 Epinette from Force Majeure rounds out the fantastic lineup of 2021 wines. Displaying a darker ruby-red core with a neon pink rim, it is more red cherry and wild blueberry fruited on the nose, moving to shades of crushed rocks, dried red flowers, sweet cinnamon, and mountain sage. Phenomenally balanced, it's a wine you will come back to time and time again. Editor's choice.

98 Points JEREMY YOUNG, *International Wine Report*

2021 Force Majeure Red Mountain Estate Cabernet Franc

I've always loved the Cabernet Francs coming out of Red Mountain, this one the 2021 Estate from Force Majeure that displays a brooding deep purple core with a neon purple rim in the glass. Brought up in about 65% new French oak and tasting like a wonderfully

made Loire Valley sample, it offers gobs of blackcurrants, sweet boysenberries, dark chocolate, graphite, tilled earth with shades of tobacco leaf and green peppercorns. Savory and complex, it's another fantastic bottle of wine from Force Majeure that will cellar well for the next 15 years. Highly recommended.

98 Points JEREMY YOUNG, *International Wine Report*

This 2021 Cabernet Franc comes from their estate vineyard on Red Mountain as there were only 75 cases made of this wine. Beautiful red and dark florals combine with shades of garrigue, freshly tilled soils and shades of milk chocolate. The palate is refined and plush with serious texture, finesse and a polished texture. Truly refined and elegant, with loads of mouth-watering acidity, this is stunning wine that flirts with perfection. Drink 2024-2044

99 points OWEN BARGREEN

All varietal from a single block in the estate vineyard and resting in 65% new French oak, the tiny production 2021 Cabernet Franc Red Mountain Estate reveals a vivid purple hue as well as vibrant aromatics of cassis and currant fruits, some savory, herb, lead pencil, and floral nuances, medium to full body, and fine tannins. It's beautifully done and clearly a brilliant wine, but unfortunately, there are a scant 75 cases, so good luck finding any.

95-97 points JEB DUNNUCK

This stunningly good pure varietal Cab Franc comes from a single block on Red Mountain, fermented in stainless steel and concrete, and aged 22 months in 50-60% new French oak. Gorgeous aromas of fruit and barrel lead into a lush palate loaded with blackberries, figs, black cherries and chocolate. Highlights of clove and graphite add further depth and length. Words can't do justice to this wine, except these: make more please. 75 cases;

97 points PAUL GREGUTT

2021 Force Majeure Walla Walla Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Walla Walla Valley Estate comes from 1998 plantings and is 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot. It has some exotic, bloody blue fruits as well as incredible complexity in its lavender, violet, iron, and spice-driven aromatics. Medium to full-bodied and balanced, with fine tannins and terrific purity, it's another gorgeous wine in the making. There are 225 cases, so not much to go around. The élevage here will span 22 months in 75% new French oak.

96-98 points JEB DUNNUCK

If you love Sumatran coffee, you really need to breathe deeply of this wine. The fact it is joined by a freshly baked marionberry scone aromas makes me want to dab this hedonistic perfume on all of my pulse points. This is a balanced, seamless Cabernet Sauvignon with black cherry, clove and wet rock flavors that coat the palate and ask to be poured again. And again. Editors' Choice.

94 points MICHAEL ALBERTY, *Wine Enthusiast*

The 2021 Force Majeure 'Walla Walla Estate' Cabernet Sauvignon has 5% Merlot blended in. Stored in 75% new French oak for 22 months, this offers wet stone and violets that combine with shades of loganberry and freshly tilled soils on the palate. Herbal and savory, this is the finest edition of this wine that I have tasted yet. Drink 2024-2040

98 points OWEN BARGREEN

Get ready to be blown away by the 2021 Walla Walla Estate Cabernet Sauvignon from Force Majeure and master winemaker Todd Alexander. A stunning blend of 95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Merlot sports a dense purple-plum core with a neon purple rim. This is a complex wine that is quite a bit different than its Red Mountain counterpart but nonetheless just as perfect. Boisterous notes of black plum, crushed blackberries, cassis, new leather, red-earth, dried violet, and lavender petals absolutely take over the nose. This carries to a potent, focused, raucous backbone with a great mid-palate, with layered chalky tannins and mouthwatering acidity that creates the perfect length. Give this 2-3 years before enjoying, and then get ready for a master class in winemaking over the next 2 decades. Highly recommended and editor's choice.

100 Points JEREMY YOUNG, *International Wine Report*

2021 Force Majeure Red Mountain Estate Tempranillo

The 2021 Force Majeure Tempranillo comes from a single block on this Red Mountain estate vineyard. Black licorice and allspice dusted black plum combine with dark chocolate shavings and loamy soils on the nose. The palate is absolutely incredible with heady dark fruit flavors, alongside creme de violette, tar and damp soils. A hedonistic, highly pleasurable wine that was stored in all new French oak, this is one of the great new world wines of its kind. Only 49 cases made. Drink 2024-2040

98 points OWEN BARGREEN

Bright black cherries, sandalwood, violets, chocolate, and loamy earth all emerge from the 2021 Tempranillo Red Mountain Estate, a classic, medium to full-bodied, concentrated Tempranillo. With air, it turns into a bonafide mineral bomb and is going to reward cellaring.

94-96 points JEB DUNNUCK