

Betz Family Winery

"One of the reference-point estates in Washington." — Jeb Dunnuck, The Wine Advocate

Statistics

COUNTRY

United States

APPELLATION

Columbia Valley, WA

FOUNDED

1997

ESTATE OWNERS

Steve and Bridgit Griessel

WINEMAKERS

Bob Betz and Louis Skinner

CASE PRODUCTION

8,000

FARMING PRACTICES

Standard IPM

Varieties

Cabernet Sauvignon

Syrah

Bordeaux-style blends

Rhône-style blends

Website

www.betzfamilywinery.com

"While there's a long history of terrific wines from this estate, I think they've hit another level in the past few vintages, and these latest releases show a purity, elegance and textural quality not found in earlier bottlings."

— Jeb Dunnuck

Winery Profile

Ever since the winery's first vintage in 1997, Bob Betz has had the single-minded goal of crafting compelling wines with individual character that are approachable and ageworthy—outstanding Cabernet and Bordeaux-style blends that have helped place Washington State on the map as a world class wine region.

By carving out specific vineyard blocks and being meticulous in the vineyard and cellar they are able to achieve the quality that has garnered them high scores and acclaim since the winery's inception. Today, Betz Family Winery is guided by two families. When Bob and Cathy Betz sold the winery to Steve and Bridgit Griessel in 2011, Bob remained as the winery's patriarch, mentor, and winemaker. Both families are committed to being true to the winery's Washington State heritage, and true to what Betz winery embodies: wines of dimension and pleasure, wines that allow the character of unique vineyards they work with to shine through. They are a blend of the best elements of the new and the old worlds; full ripe fruit and yet structured for longevity.

The winery currently produces limited quantities of their acclaimed bottlings every year. Jeb Dunnuck of Wine Advocate recently awarded the 2015 Père de Famille 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon 93-96 points, "Tasted as a barrel sample, the 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Pere de Famille is a head turner offering a detailed, mineral-laced, full-bodied, fresh and elegant style that doesn't lack for oomph or structure. It has classic notes of cassis, smoked tobacco and graphite, with nicely integrated acidity and a great, great finish." And the 2015 Clos de Betz received an equally impressive 92-94 points, "Possessing even more Merlot than the 2014, the 2015 Clos de Betz is 75% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Petit Verdot brought up in a mix of barrels. Its chocolatey plum, tobacco leaf, licorice, and damp earth aromatics give way to a medium to full-bodied, polished, pretty style on the palate that shines for its elegance and freshness.





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Critical Acclaim

2015 Possibility Washington Red Blend

92 Points Tim Fish Wine Spectator

Polished and seamlessly built, with expressive blueberry and huckleberry flavors accented by smoky spice and bitter chocolate notes that take on richness toward refined tannins. Drink now through 2024.

2016 Bésolleil Southern Rhone Blend

94 Points William Kelley Wine Advocate

Attractively complex aromas of cherries, kirsch, white pepper, spice, potpourri and licorice, it's medium to full-bodied, sappy and succulent, with velvety structuring tannins and bright acids.

2016 La Serenne Boushey Vineyard Syrah

96 Points Jeb Dunnuck jebdunnuck.com

The 2016 Syrah La Serenne saw plenty of whole clusters as well as 11 months in French oak, 40% new. It's deep inky colored with a smoking bouquet of blueberries, spring flowers, gunpowder like minerality, and liquid violets. With classic gamey Syrah character, plenty of pepper, medium to full-bodied richness, and a heavenly, silky texture, this might just be the finest vintage of this cuvée to date.

2016 La Côte Rousse Red Mountain Syrah

95+ Points Jeb Dunnuck jebdunnuck.com

The 2016 Syrah La Cote Rousse is built around clone 99, all from Red Mountain, that saw 45% whole clusters in the fermentation. This cuvee, which is also moving more and more toward Ciel du Cheval, is 88% from this terrific site. It's another inky purple colored red with a beautiful bouquet of black raspberries, toasted spice, dried herbs, and mineral aromas and flavors. This full-bodied, ripe, layered Syrah needs 2-3 years of bottle age and will keep for 15+ years.

2015 Clos de Betz Bordeaux Red Blend

95 Points Jeb Dunnuck jebdunnuck.com

The 2015 Clos de Betz is a blend of 75% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Petit Verdot. Offering up aromas of blackcurrants, crème de cassis, licorice, incense and rich soil tones, it's full-bodied, layered and velvety, with super concentration and depth, fine-grained structuring tannins and a long, youthfully chewy finish. The structural refinement and detail are indicative of Betz's thoughtful approach to the challenges of the 2015 vintage.

2015 Pere de Famille Columbia Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

97 Points Jeb Dunnuck jebdunnuck.com

This inky colored effort is packed and stacked, with deep blackberry and currant fruits intermixed with lots of graphite, crushed rock, and minerals as well as smoky, violets aromas and flavors. This full-bodied beauty has gorgeous purity and elegance. It needs 2-4 years of bottle age and will keep for two decades.

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www.cascadiafinewines.com · 2342 Granville Street · Vancouver BC · info@cascadiafinewines.com