



# Force Majeure

*"One of the top estates in Washington." — Jeb Dunnuck, The Wine Advocate*

## Statistics

### COUNTRY

United States

### APPELLATIONS

Red Mountain,  
The Rocks District,  
The North Fork of the  
Walla Walla River

### FOUNDED

2004

### ESTATE OWNERS:

Paul & Susan McBride

### WINEMAKER:

Todd Alexander with consulting  
enologist Helen Keplinger

### CASE PRODUCTION

3,500

## Varieties

Syrah

Cabernet Sauvignon  
Bordeaux-style blends  
Rhône-style blends

## Website

[www.forcemajeurevineyards.com](http://www.forcemajeurevineyards.com)

*"I've said it before, and I'll say it again, the two entry-level wines from this estate compete, or surpass, most estates' top wines."*

— Jeb Dunnuck

## Winery Profile

Force Majeure is an ultra-premium winery specializing in estate-grown, single-vineyard Bordeaux and Rhône-inspired wines. Their wines are meticulously crafted by former Bryant Family Vineyard Winemaker, Todd Alexander. From its inception, Force Majeure has been defined by an unwavering commitment to outstanding viticulture and exemplary winemaking. Their estate vineyard is located in the famous Red Mountain AVA, with new plantings coming online in Milton-Freewater's cobblestone studded Rocks District AVA, one of the most unique and noteworthy terroirs in the United States.

"Force Majeure" describes the relentless, powerful elements of Nature that form the terroir of our vineyard. It also identifies the "unstoppable force" initiated when the highest level of viticulture is combined with the highest level of winemaking talent.

Their wines are produced in small quantities and are only available through their mailing list in the US, as well as through a few select retailers and fine dining restaurants.

Alexander's deft hand in both the winery and vineyard have produced stunning results, his 2016 Force Majeure SJR Vineyard Syrah received a perfect 100 point score from former Wine Advocate critic, Jeb Dunnuck, "The 2016 Syrah SJR Vineyard is a viscerally thrilling, awesome Syrah that tops out on my scale. Massive notes of black and blue fruits, lavender, ground pepper, and smoked earth all flow to a full-bodied, seamless, layered, wine that carries beautiful density and concentration, yet glides over the palate with no sensation of weight or heaviness. Incredibly complex, powerful, and elegant, it's a perfect wine from this estate and one of the greatest wines to date from this region." And while this highly allocated label is not available for export, the other wines in Force Majeure's portfolio are equally stunning and highly rated.



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*"Force Majeure has already established itself in the top tier of Washington Wineries." — Harvey Steiman, Wine Spectator*

## Critical Acclaim

### 2016 Force Majeure Épinette

**96+ Points**                      Jeb Dunnuck                      [jebdunnuck.com](http://jebdunnuck.com)

I loved the 2016 Epinette from barrel, and it certainly doesn't disappoint from bottle. Sporting a deep purple color as well as a huge bouquet of blackcurrants, black cherries, smoked earth, chocolate, and cedary spice, this flamboyant, powerful beauty hits the palate with loads of fruit, has sweet tannins, no hard edges, building tannins, and a huge finish. It's one seriously pleasure-bent effort that has another 10-15 years of prime drinking.

### 2015 Force Majeure Parvata

**96 Points**                      Jeb Dunnuck                      [jebdunnuck.com](http://jebdunnuck.com)

There are only 325 cases of the 2016 Parvata, a blend of 69% Mourvèdre, 21% Syrah, and 10% Grenache brought up in 30% new, mostly larger barrels. Deep ruby-colored, with a beautiful bouquet of black raspberries, white pepper, spiced meats, and graphite, this hits the palate with full-bodied richness, ripe tannins, and beautiful length.

### 2016 Force Majeure Syrah Estate

**97 Points**                      Jeb Dunnuck                      [jebdunnuck.com](http://jebdunnuck.com)

The 2016 Syrah Estate checks in as 100% Syrah that saw a small amount of stems. It spent 18 months in 25% new French oak. Deeply colored, it displays a thrilling bouquet of smoked black fruits, violets, smoked meats, charcoal, and graphite. Deep, rich, incredibly fleshy and flamboyant, with perfect balance, it's a serious, world-class Syrah that will keep for 10-15 years.

### 2016 Parabellum Coulée

**95 Points**                      Jeb Dunnuck                      [jebdunnuck.com](http://jebdunnuck.com)

The entry-level Rhône blend is the 2016 Parabellum Coulee, composed of 75% Syrah and 25% Mourvèdre brought up in 50% new French oak. It's a beautifully pure, elegant wine that has terrific notes of blueberries, smoked herbs, hints of bacon fat, and spring flowers. It's ripe and has a slightly more forward, seamless texture than the top cuvée, with remarkable purity and a great finish.

### 2016 Parabellum Alluvio

**94 Points**                      Jeb Dunnuck                      [jebdunnuck.com](http://jebdunnuck.com)

The 2016 Parabellum Alluvio is the entry-level Bordeaux blend (the second wine, if you will) and it is 62% Cabernet Franc, 15% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 8% Petit Verdot. It's complex, layered, and incredibly elegant, with silky tannins as well as loads of dried cherries, bouquet garni, crushed rock, and hints of spring flower. I'm always shocked at the quality of this estate's so-called entry level wines, and this is a beautiful wine in its own right. Drink it any time over the coming 10-15 years.



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