



Reviews by Josh Reynolds

# TALISMAN

## **2009 Pinot Noir Red Dog Vineyard Sonoma Mountain**

(\$50) Bright ruby-red. Sexy spice- and mineral-accented aromas of black raspberry and cherry-cola, complicated by a subtle smokiness and a touch of rose pastille. Powerful but lithe and precise, offering intense red and dark berry and mocha flavors with a note of bitter herbs. Shows impressive power and clarity on the finish, which features silky tannins and lingering spiciness.

**92**

## **2009 Pinot Noir Wildcat Mountain Los Carneros**

(\$48) (made with 25% whole clusters and raised in 86% new oak): Bright ruby-red. Musky floral, spicy aromas of black raspberry, cherry and licorice, with a smoky overtone. The palate offers penetrating dark berry flavors and complicating notes of bitter chocolate, vanilla and allspice. Smooth and sweet on the lingering, gently tannic finish.

**91**

## **2009 Pinot Noir Spring Hill Vineyard Sonoma Coast**

(\$42) Bright ruby. Black raspberry and cola on the nose, with smoky herb and floral pastille nuances adding complexity. Densely packed but surprisingly lively, with very good delineation and a spicy edge to its bitter cherry and dark berry preserve flavors. Closes on a sweet vanilla note, with slow-mounting tannins and very good focus. This wine was vinified with 25% whole clusters and aged in two-thirds new oak.

**91**

## **2009 Pinot Noir Weir Vineyard Yorkville Highlands**

(\$60) (raised for 21 months in 60% new oak): Vivid red. Intense dark berry and cola scents become brighter with air, picking up cherry and floral notes and a hint of spicecake. Juicy, penetrating and appealingly sweet, offering black raspberry and cherry-cola flavors and a hint of vanilla. Supple tannins build on the clinging finish, which is given a nervy edge by smoky minerals. This pinot benefits a lot from aeration.

**92**

## **2009 Pinot Noir Aداstra Vineyard Los Carneros**

(\$50) Deep red. Smoke- and spice-accented aromas and flavors of cherry and red berries. Silky and open-knit, with good energy and a sneaky note of bitter chocolate. The spicy quality carries strongly through the finish, which is tangy, very long and subtly tannic. Concentrated and energetic pinot noir.

**91**

## **2009 Pinot Noir Gunsalus Vineyard Russian River Valley**

(\$44) Dark ruby. Ripe cherry and licorice on the nose, with subtle woodsmoke and licorice nuances emerging with air. Broad, slightly medicinal dark fruit flavors show a refreshingly bitter edge and gain sweetness with air. On the rich side but nicely energetic, finishing with strong punch and lingering sweetness.

**90**