



TALISMAN

2001 Thorn Ridge Vineyard Pinot noir Sonoma Coast

Talisman Winery is dedicated to the crafting of exquisite, soulful Pinot noirs that are true to their roots and accurately reflect the terroir and personality of their vineyard origin.

About the Talisman Logo

The Talisman logo is a stylized representation of a Native American medicine wheel. The elements of the medicine wheel represent the circle of life and the four directions, reminding us of our place in the universe. The rays around the medicine wheel represent the sun, which provides energy for life on Earth and ripens grapes, allowing us to revel in the pleasures of life, including fine wine.

Vineyards and Winemaking

Thorn Ridge Vineyard has the distinction of being one of the least hospitable vineyard sites I have ever visited. Ted Klopp farms this desolate outpost located about five miles southwest of Sebastopol on the northern edge of the Petaluma Gap. The soils are low-vigor silt and the very limited water supply almost qualifies Thorn Ridge as a dry-farmed vineyard. Thorn Ridge Vineyard is pummeled by cold air and fog rushing through the lowest point in California's Coast Range, naturally limiting yields and ensuring extended hang times.

The vintage of 2001 was marked by a cold, damp spring and the worst frost since 1980. The result was a remarkably small yield of 1.9 tons per acre, resulting in a wine with even more concentration than normally seen in this vineyard.

The grapes were simply destemmed with approximately 25% retained as whole clusters, then left to soak prior to the start of a native fermentation. Part way through, a small amount of a commercial yeast strain was introduced to ensure completion of the process. After an extended maceration, the must was pressed on the day of the most spectacular thunder-and-lightning storm in recent memory. The wine underwent malolactic fermentation and sixteen months of aging in new and one-year-old French oak barrels.

Tasting Notes

Our 2001 Thorn Vineyard Pinot noir possesses many of the enigmatic qualities that make Pinot noir so interesting. The nose is reminiscent of blueberry tart, briar, and black pepper. It possesses a firm structure, but there is also a delicate elegance melded with an alluring wild note sometimes found in great red Burgundies. Blueberries and spice compose an exceptional persistence.

Details

Vineyard planted in: 1995

Vine spacing 6' x 8'

Clones/selections: Dijon 115, Swan, and Pommard

Rootstock: 1103P

Eastern exposure

pH: 3.55

Titrateable acidity: 0.58 g/100mL

Alcohol: 13.5% by volume

Yield: 1.9 tons/acre

Barrel aging: 16 months, 60% new French oak,
40% 1-year old French oak

404 cases produced