



TALISMAN

2007 Red Dog Vineyard Pinot noir

Dijon Clones

Sonoma Mountain

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

Located high on the northwest flank of Sonoma Mountain, this panoramic mountainside site is the recipient of coastal fog and cool air flowing from the chilly Pacific Ocean through the Petaluma Gap and the venturi-inducing geography of Bennett Valley, slamming directly into the upper reaches of Sonoma Mountain. The soils are low-vigor loamy clays. Two adjacent east-facing blocks are planted to Dijon clones, one to Dijon 115 and the other to Dijon 777. These blocks are often enveloped in fog until late morning and they are protected from the direct brunt of the afternoon wind that brings cold air streaming in from the west. This portion of the vineyard ripens fruit slowly, producing wines with elegant tannins and complex flavors.

In most years, the Dijon clones and the Pommard clone, which is planted on a west-facing slope, are either co-fermented or blended together before barreling. In 2007, however, the Dijon clones ripened quite early and we picked the grapes from those blocks on September 8, a full three weeks before the Pommard clone was picked. Because the timing was so different, the Dijon and Pommard clones were aged as separate lots. The two wines had so much individual personality and were so complete on their own that we thought it would be fun to leave them as two separate, stand-alone bottlings.

The 2007 vintage was about as close to perfect as they get. Budbreak was early, making for a long growing season. The weather during flowering and fruit set was dry, setting the stage for a moderately-sized crop of uniform ripeness and superb concentration. A short burst of heat in August gracefully pushed the grapes into veraison. Due to an unusually cool September, harvest was an almost leisurely affair, allowing us to pick at the peak of tannin and flavor development.

When the hand-picked fruit arrived at the winery, it was tenderly sorted before going into the fermenter. About 25% of the fruit was retained as whole clusters and the balance was gently destemmed with a very high proportion of whole, uncrushed berries. A wild fermentation ensued after five days and the grapes were punched down from two to six times each day, followed by a post-fermentation maceration. The wine was aged in 69% new French oak for twenty months before bottling. Some of the world's best coopers provided the barrels: Dargaud et Jaegle, Marcel Cadet, Francois Freres, and Remond.

Tasting Notes

Although this wine has its feet firmly grounded in California, several winemakers who tasted this wine in barrel felt that it also shared some of the best characteristics of red Burgundy wines – spicy, perfumed aromas with hints of tobacco and a focus on the red fruit spectrum. This wine is quite aromatic and displays a great deal of finesse in the mouth, with soft, velvety tannins set as a foil against the slightly acidic backbone, lending great structure to the wine. The palate is dominated by treble notes and tastes of red fruits such as raspberry and red cherries with a slight mineral quality. It has a lip-smacking, tenacious finish.

Details

Vineyard planted in: 2000

Vine spacing: 5' x 8'

Vine density: 1089 vines per acre

Clones/selections: Dijon 115, Dijon 777

Rootstock: 3309

pH: 3.72

Titrateable acidity: 0.55 g/100mL

Alcohol: 14.3% by volume

Yield: 2.1 tons of grapes per acre

Barrel aging: 20 months, 69% new French oak

256 cases produced