



# TALISMAN

## 2012 Gunsalus Vineyard Pinot noir Russian River Valley

*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

Pamela and Glen Gunsalus (“gun-say-lus”) are always in their vineyard, located on a west-facing slope in the Green Valley of Russian River Valley appellation. These two former researchers have great intuition backed up by scientific rigor and it shows in the quality of their grapes.

2012 was the poster child vintage for great conditions in the vineyard. The first of several years of serious drought provided reasonably moist soils for budbreak in March and flowering in late May. A moderate crop was the result of dry, mild weather during flowering and fruit set. Supreme weather dominated for the balance of the growing season into harvest, with an absence of any remarkable heat waves or unusually cold weather.

Most of Gunsalus Vineyard was picked September 8th, our first harvest of the year. The balance of the grapes were picked September 15th. Both fermentations included a whole cluster component of about 25%. After feral fermentations and post-fermentation macerations, both lots were combined post-pressing and aged in François Frères, Dargaud et Jaegle, Marcel Cadet, Rousseau, and Remond barrels, where the wine underwent malolactic fermentation. The wine was racked from barrels and blended just prior to bottling after 20 months in barrel.

### Tasting Notes

Our 2012 Gunsalus pinot is a bright, vibrant, and beautifully integrated wine. The aroma is broad, dense, and slightly brooding, and woven with threads of sweet dark cherry, sarsaparilla, gingerbread, tobacco, dark spice, and red licorice. The palate is lively and the texture is thick, rich, silky and sexy; playing well with black cherry, cedar, and diced mixed dark berry flavors with a hint of cinnamon. This toothsome wine finishes with fine-grained tannins and a bit of black pepper on the finish. A fascinating and delicious wine.

### Details

Vineyard planted in: 2001

Vine spacing: 4' x 7'

Vine density: 1556 vines per acre

Clones/selections: Dijon clones 114, 115, and 777

Rootstock: 101-14

pH: 3.79

Titrateable acidity: 5.9 g/L

Alcohol: 14.6% by volume

Yield: 2.6 tons of grapes per acre

Barrel aging: 20 months, 64% new French oak

267 cases produced