



# TALISMAN

## 2014 Red Dog Vineyard Pinot noir 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 through the Petaluma Gap and slamming directly into the upper reaches of Sonoma Mountain. The soils are low-vigor loamy clays, thus the grapes on this site ripen very slowly, providing perfect conditions for complete and complex flavor development. Fog often persists in the mornings when the sun has risen above the eastern slope and by the time the afternoon sun has made its impact on the western slope, the cold air and fog begin their journey back from coast to mountain.

2014 was the third year of a serious drought in Northern California giving us lower grape yields with tremendous concentration. A warm, relatively dry spring meant quick flowering, and warm temperatures during fruit set produced a nice even set. The summer was mild with very few heat spikes, giving us a consistent, well developed crop. Two weeks of fog at the end of August slowed things down, then a brief heat wave over Labor Day jump started harvest, with mild temperatures thereafter.

Harvest in 2014 was extremely compressed, starting September 6th and ending September 22nd; Red Dog ripened so quickly that we picked all three clones on the same day; September 16th. We fermented all three clones together in a 5-ton open top fermenter retaining 25% as whole clusters. After our usual ambient fermentation, all of the lots underwent an extended maceration before pressing and barreling. Barrels used for aging were sourced from five French coopers; François Freres, Dargaud & Jaegle, Marcel Cadet, Rousseau and Remond.

### Tasting Notes

This Red Dog Pinot has such a clean fresh brightness, and a myriad bouquet of blueberry, black pepper and luscious dark fruit. Earthiness, dried strawberry, currant and light sweet oak. The texture is smooth and savory with umami and great tension of tannin and a gorgeous burst of fruit, followed by black cherry, slate and blackberry cheesecake. A slightly spicy, smoky finish lingers on softly. What a fun and complex wine.

### Details

Vineyard planted in 2000

Vine spacing: 5' x 8'

Vine density: 1089 vines per acre

Clones/selections: Dijon 115, Dijon 777, and Pommard (UCD 5)

Rootstock: 3309

pH: 3.73

Titrateable acidity: 6.1 g/L

Alcohol: 14.4% by volume

Yield: 3 tons of grapes per acre

Barrel aging: 21 months, 60% new French oak

366 cases produced