



PinotFile

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*Pinot Noir
Tastes Like Itself*

Talisman: 2010 Pinots are a Giant Step Up from the Ordinary

I need to do a shout out about the outstanding 2010 Talisman Pinot Noirs. I have been a long time fan of the wines, but somehow I drifted away and did not taste the lineup of the 2009 wines. I am here to tell you that the 2010 Pinot Noirs are incredibly beautiful wines with impeccable balance and superior age worthiness. The 2010 vintage is the current release for Talisman as winemaker Scott Rich holds the wines back a minimum of one year since he feels strongly that they benefit from extra time before release. Believe me, they are **READY** to drink now. The impeccable balance suggests a long life ahead and I would not hesitate to cellar these wines for ten years. Winemaker Scott Rich learned his craft under Tony Soter while working at Etude in Carneros. Along with his spouse Marta, who is also the National Sales Manager for Calera, they started their own label in 1993. Scott is a lover of unique terroir and he searches judiciously for vineyards that

are challenging and on the edge. He says, "I like to express terroir and that is the beauty of Pinot Noir. Terroir comes through in the more extreme vineyards."

Each of his wines are vinified in about 5 barrel lots. I have tasted a number of older vintages and can testify that they age extremely well. The wines were bottled in July of 2012 and represent both fall 2013 and spring 2014 releases.

The winery is in a bare bones warehouse in Sonoma as part of the Eighth Street Wineries. Nothing fancy, just great wines. The winery is open several times a year during regional and local open house events, and Scott and Marta pour at many major Pinot Noir festivals including this recent World of Pinot Noir event in Santa Barbara. Tasting by appointment is available in a building that is over 110 years old in the heart of historic Glen Ellen. The tasting room is open Thursday through Sunday by appointment. Visit www.talismanwine.com.