

Talisman Wines

By Josh Raynolds

Scott Rich, who worked with Tony Soter at Etude from 1995 until 2000, produces elegant, Old World-inspired pinots made with a decent percentage of whole clusters and raised in what he described as “a judicious amount of new oak, depending on the individual wine, not on a strict recipe.” Rich said that he and his wife Marta (who works at Calera as well) make the Talisman pinots for aging, “so aiming for structure is a primary goal.” He’s also very interested in preserving the character of individual sites and even clones. “I’d rather have two or three bottlings that express distinct styles than a master blend where the vineyards’ personalities were blended away,” he told me.

92 2007 Talisman Pinot Noir Red Dog Vineyard Dijon Clones Sonoma Mountain

Bright red. **Sexy, pungent bouquet** evokes red and dark berry preserves, Asian spices and dried flowers, plus a hint of blood orange. Sweet, sappy and densely packed but light on its feet, with energetic raspberry and cherry flavors and a silky texture. **Finishes smooth and sweet**, with impressive cling and drive. This is already delicious.

91 2007 Talisman Pinot Noir Red Dog Vineyard Pommard Clone Sonoma Mountain

Light red. Shows a more serious mien than the Dijon Clones bottling, offering scents and flavors of black raspberry, cherry and musky herbs. **Chewy and expansive on the palate**, with very good depth and mounting structure. Becomes spicier with air and **finishes with a whiplash** of star anise and bitter cherry.

91 2007 Talisman Pinot Noir Adastra Vineyard Los Carneros

Light red. **Complex**, herb-accented aromas of redcurrant, pomegranate, botanical herbs and woodsmoke; smells like a wild amaro. **Taut, focused and pure**, with refreshingly bitter red berry and cherry skin flavors and a touch of blood orange. The firm finish displays **very good clarity and lingering sweetness**.

90 2007 Talisman Pinot Noir Wildcat Mountain Los Carneros

Medium red. High-pitched aromas of red berries, cinnamon and fresh flowers. **Juicy and precise in the mouth**, offering tangy strawberry and raspberry flavors that gain depth with air. Slightly chewy tannins add shape to the **spicy, incisive finish**. This should age nicely.

90 2007 Talisman Pinot Noir Hawk Hill Vineyard Russian River Valley

Vivid red. **Highly aromatic bouquet** of redcurrant, spicecake, dried rose and minerals. In **a distinctly spicy, energetic style**, with juicy acidity intensifying its raspberry and floral pastille flavors. Shows very good flesh and sweetness but comes off as lithe, spreading out nicely on the sappy, **gently chewy finish**.