



TALISMAN

2008 Huckleberry's 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

Bill and Lauren Hipp, along with their dogs Huckleberry and Gracie, farm this vineyard in the Green Valley of Russian River Valley appellation just northwest of the small town of Graton. This is the first vintage from this pocket-sized parcel that sits on classic Russian River Gold Ridge soils. The closely-spaced vineyard is managed entirely by hand (Bill's and Lauren's!) and the attention to detail translates to the wine. Scant early-season rain combined with cold flowering weather conspired to create a small crop with concentrated flavors. A warm beginning to September and the light crop set up our first harvest of the year on September 4.

The grapes were destemmed directly into a one-ton fermenter with a layer (approximately 25%) of whole clusters on the bottom of the fermenter. A feral fermentation started after eight days of soaking at around 58° F and the grapes were punched down from two to six times per day. After a total vat time of 34 days, pressing took place. The wine was racked to a single new Dargaud et Jaegle barrel the next morning, where it completed malolactic fermentation. After 20 months in barrel, the wine was bottled by hand without fining or filtration.

Tasting Notes

Reminiscent of hot cherry pie, both the aroma and the flavor brim with dark Bing cherries, root beer, and hints of graphite/cedar pencil shavings, spice, and sandalwood. This is a prototypical Russian River Valley pinot with a slightly exotic twist. Texturally, this is a round, voluptuous, mouth-filling wine with a juicy, persistent finish.

Details

Vineyard planted in: 2004

Vine spacing: 3' x 5'

Vine density: 2904 vines per acre

Clones/selections: 115, 667

Rootstock: 101-14

One quarter acre is planted to Pinot Noir

pH: 3.76

Titrateable acidity: 5.8 g/L

Alcohol: 14.3% by volume

Yield: 1.4 tons of grapes per acre equivalent

Barrel aging: 20 months, 100% new French oak

22 cases produced