



TALISMAN

2008 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. This site ripens 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 that the afternoon sun has made its impact on the western slope, the cold air and fog begin their journey back from coast to mountain.

Defying normal rain patterns, Sonoma County experienced little rain after February. Budbreak came early, setting the stage for the rest of the season. A bit of August heat sped the grapes through veraison. Another series of heat spikes in early September pushed the fruit to ripeness and a very slight desiccation that served to concentrate flavors. When the fruit was picked September 9, it was close to perfection.

The fruit was all hand-sorted at the winery and a portion of the Dijon 777 clone (about 25% of all the grapes picked) were layered into the bottom of the fermenter. The balance of the fruit was destemmed on top of the whole clusters and a cold soak commenced. The must started to ferment spontaneously after seven days in the vat, where it remained for a total of 35 days before pressing. The wine spent the rest of its youth aging in 60% new French oak barrels from the A-list of coopers - Dargaud et Jaegle, Marcel Cadet, François Frères, and Remond. The wine was bottled after 20 months of aging.

Tasting Notes

Aromas of mineral, forest floor, sandalwood, and berry barely prepare you for the intensity of flavors by mouth. A completely silky, sexy texture envelopes concentrated blackberry, earth, and mineral spice flavors. A little tightly wound, this beauty opens into an incredibly dense, rich mouthful that stimulates the salivary glands in an almost Pavlovian manner. The finish is quite persistent and we think this wine will be exceptionally long-lived and will likely not reach its potential for at least eight to ten years. This is not a shy pinot noir for the faint of heart!

Details

Vineyard planted in 2000

Vine spacing: 5' x 8'

Vine density: 1089 vines per acre

Clones/selections: Dijon 115, Dijon 777, and Pommard

Rootstock: 3309

pH: 3.78

Titrateable acidity: 0.54 g/100mL

Alcohol: 14.3% by volume

Yield: 2.1 tons of grapes per acre

Barrel aging: 20 months, 60% new French oak

335 cases produced