



# TALISMAN

## 2012 Rancho Estrella Vineyard Pinot noir Napa 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

Rancho Estrella is an intentional farming community located near the upper end of Lovall Valley, an isolated valley within Napa County. Due to its geographic isolation, the property has been used as a turkey breeding operation and, more recently, an animal rescue facility. The Rancho is food-focused (the residents include three trained chefs) and raises vegetables and olives, as well as goats and cattle. The combination of rocky, weathered rhyolite soil and the 600' elevation at the southern end of the valley conspire to make a cool, challenging vineyard site with vines that struggle a bit.

It's difficult to write about perfection, so our summary of the 2012 vintage is just that – a summary (about Goldilocks). The entire vintage was just right – not too hot and not too cold. There was no rain until after the last grapes were picked and we never saw the heat spikes that normally punctuate harvest. Perfect!

The winemaking was very straightforward. Picked on October 13, this was the last vineyard we picked in 2012. The grapes were hand-sorted, then destemmed without crushing; about 25% of the fruit was placed in the bottom of the fermenters for a whole cluster component. Fruit from the east (Pommard clone) and west (Dijon clones 115 and 828) blocks were fermented separately. As usual, we relied on native yeast for the primary fermentation, as well as native bacteria for the malolactic fermentation. The tanks were drained and pressed after an extended maceration, the wine settled overnight to remove the very heaviest solids, racked into new and once-used barrels. After barrel aging, the wines from both blocks were combined and bottled by hand.

### Tasting Notes

The nose of this wine is quite pretty and sultry – a bouquet of little red cinnamon heart candies mingles with the exotic wood aroma of an old Chinese lacquered chest, a hint of truffle, and a bit of pomegranate. The entry is savory, juicy, and lovely, the texture plush and unctuous. The tannins are very fine-grained and mouth-watering. The flavors are concentrated, yet sprightly: black cherry, pomegranate, dried orange peel, and a little hint of toast vanilla at the end. The finish is a very persistent mouthful of cherries jubilee.

### Details

Vineyard planted in: 2006

Vine spacing: 6' x 4'

Vine density: 1815 vines per acre

Clones/selections: Pommard, Dijon 115, Dijon 828

Rootstock: 3309, 101-14

pH: 3.75

Titrateable acidity: 5.8 g/L

Alcohol: 14.7% by volume

Yield: 2.0 tons of grapes per acre

Barrel aging: 21 months, 33% new French oak

Production: 72 cases produced