



TALISMAN

2013 Red Dog Vineyard Pinot noir

Dijon Clone 115

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.

Because we're in California, we're often blessed with beautiful weather for grape growing and a relative lack of serious challenges during the growing season. Even under favorable conditions, which we had in 2013, success still requires great management practices in the vineyard and we could not have made such nice wine without well-executed and timely work in the vineyard.

We picked Red Dog vineyard on September 18, and we were thrilled by the quality of the Dijon clone 115 so we fermented a portion of it separately. Whole clusters were utilized during fermentation at a rate of about 25%. Winemaking was minimalist, utilizing only feral yeast and malolactic bacteria. This lot went through a post-fermentation maceration, then was pressed, barreled, and aged in French oak barrels from three coopers; Rousseau and Remond, both brand new and a once-used Dargaud et Jaegle for 20 months.

Tasting Notes

A graceful bouquet of apple blossoms, dark plum and sweet sandalwood lures you into this silky smooth Red Dog Pinot noir; crafted from just one block of the vineyard planted to one single clone. The wine is complex, deep, broad and brooding; it's tightly wound while oozing wild raspberry and spice. The texture is lively, sassy, round, soft and rich with a long lingering finish.

Details

Vineyard planted in 2000

Vine spacing: 5' x 8'

Vine density: 1089 vines per acre

Clones/selections: Dijon 115

Rootstock: 3309

pH: 3.74

Titrateable acidity: 6.1 g/L

Alcohol: 14.4% by volume

Yield: 2.2 tons of grapes per acre

Barrel aging: 20 months, 67% new

71 cases (3 barrels) produced