



TALISMAN

2014 Starscape 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

Starscape Vineyard (previously named Floodgate and prior to that, Mark West Vineyard) is located on Trenton-Healdsburg Road on the southern end of an area known as the Middle Reach of the Russian River. The Middle Reach is arguably the most iconic area for Russian River Pinot noir. We source Dijon 777 and an old block of Pommard from a south-facing slope composed of Laniger loam soils. An East-facing slope is the home of a younger planting of Dijon 828, one of the more recent imports to California.

2014 was the third year of a serious drought in Northern California giving us lower grape yields with tremendous concentration. A warm, relatively dry spring meant quick flowering, and warm temperatures during fruit set produced a nice even set. The summer was mild with very few heat spikes, giving us a consistent, well developed crop. Two weeks of fog at the end of August slowed things down, then a brief heat wave over Labor Day jump started harvest, with mild temperatures thereafter.

The Dijon 7778 and Pommard were picked September 8 and co-fermented with a 25% whole cluster component. The Dijon 828 grapes were picked September 16 and fermented by themselves. The fermentations were un-inoculated, relying on feral yeast and malolactic bacteria. Complexity was enhanced by the use of barrels from five different coopers. The wine was bottled unfined and unfiltered.

Tasting Notes

A surprisingly floral nose is backed up with cherry aromas, which are quite typical of wines produced from this region. Black raspberry and black cherry flavors are backed up by gentle mouth-coating tannins. The finish is remarkably persistent.

Details

Clones/selections: Pommard, Dijon clones 777 and 828
Yield: 2.6 tons of grapes per acre
Barrel aging: 21 months, 57% new French oak

pH: 3.68
Titratable acidity: 6.0 g/L
Alcohol: 14.8%

338 cases produced