



TALISMAN

2017 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, thus the grapes on this site ripen 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 the afternoon sun has made its impact on the western slope, the cold air and fog begin their journey back from coast to mountain.

2017 started with a wet spring, encouraging healthy vine growth and requiring diligent canopy management. We enjoyed mostly mild daytime temperatures and cool nights throughout the summer season, then found ourselves in a labor day heat spike, though it had little effect on the fruit, allowing us time to pick at optimal ripeness. Thankfully all our Pinot Noir had been harvested and was happily fermenting in the winery when the crazy October fires swept through the area.

We picked Red Dog on September 17th. We fermented in 1-ton open top fermenters, retaining 25% as whole clusters. After our usual feral fermentation, the must underwent an extended maceration before pressing and barreling. We employed three French oak barrels for aging.

Tasting Notes

A fascinating mineral, flinty, blueberry bouquet and notes of cherry and the zing of raspberry are the introduction to this expressive Pinot... bright enchanting flavors of boysenberry, sandalwood and black tea weave into the round, full, deep and mouthwatering body with hints of redwood forest and a slate roof in the rain. The tannins are very smooth and embrace your mouth then persist into a delightfully earthy long finish.

Details

Vineyard planted in 2000

Vine spacing: 5' x 8'

Vine density: 1,089 vines per acre

Clones/selections: Pommard (UCD clone 5)

Rootstock: 3309

pH: 3.75

Titrateable acidity: 6.3 g/L

Alcohol: 14.6% by volume

Yield: 0.9 tons of grapes per acre

Barrel aging: 21 months, 67% new French oak

3 barrels; 72 cases produced