



TALISMAN

2015 Gunsalus 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

Pamela and Glen Gunsalus (“gun-say-lus”) are always in their vineyard, located on a west-facing slope in the Green Valley of Russian River Valley appellation. These two former researchers have great intuition backed up by scientific rigor and it shows in the quality of their grapes.

2015 was the fourth year of drought in California; the lack of winter rains so many years in a row resulted in very scant yields and thus, considerable concentration in the fruit. Weather during the growing season was wonderfully mild. Harvest was the earliest and fastest in recent memory.

Our first harvest of the year and just a few days on the early side, we picked the grapes at Gunsalus on August 27th! Similar to the previous year, the stems were well lignified, so we included nearly 30% as a whole cluster contribution. The grapes were sorted and destemmed, then cold soaked until a feral fermentation took off about six days after harvest. The fermentation, along with frequent punch-downs, went to completion eight days later, when the fermenter was sealed up for an extended maceration. Thirty-eight days after picking, the tank was drained, the remaining grapes were pressed, and the wine was barreled, using barrels from five different coopers to help add layers of complexity. Malolactic fermentation occurred in barrel. The wine remained un racked until just before blending and bottling.

Tasting Notes

An effusive cherry bouquet with hints of gardenia, white pepper, dried orange peel, boysenberry and tiny valentine hearts with a slate-like minerality is a fascinating introduction to this Russian River beauty. On the palate we find flavors of cherry cobbler, blackberry, lavender, licorice, sweet tobacco, spice and a briary rocky accent. This wine is sultry, luscious and velvety with a really yummy juicy finish.

Details

Vineyard planted in: 2001

Vine spacing: 4' x 7'

Vine density: 1556 vines per acre

Clones/selections: Dijon clones 114, 115, 667 and 777

Rootstock: 101-14

Elevation: 170-300'

pH: 3.63

Titrateable acidity: 5.6 g/L

Alcohol: 14.5% by volume

Yield: 2.1 tons of grapes per acre

Barrel aging: 19 months, 50% new French oak

196 cases produced