



TALISMAN

2015 Wildcat Mountain Vineyard Pinot noir Sonoma Coast

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

Situated high on the southern flank of the mountain range defining the western edge of Sonoma Valley, Wildcat Mountain Vineyard is an outlier relative to any other vineyards in the area. The highest vineyard in the appellation at an elevation of 750', it sits on well-drained rocky soils of volcanic origin, exposed to the full brunt of fog and cold airflow that streams off the upper reaches of San Pablo Bay. This is an ideal place to grow top-tier Pinot noir grapes. Formerly grazing land, the vineyard was established by Nancy and Tony Lilly with their partner, Steve MacRostie in 1998. The quality of the vineyard bears testimony to the vision and tenacity of several generations of Nancy's family, which has been the steward of this land since 1940.

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.

We picked the grapes on Wildcat Mountain on September 7th. The stems were well lignified, so we included nearly 25% as a whole cluster component. The grapes were sorted and the rest destemmed, then rested until an ambient fermentation took off about a week after harvest. The fermentation, along with frequent punch-downs, went to completion a week later, when the fermenter was sealed up for an extended maceration. About forty 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; we selected barrels from all five of our favorite coopers to help create complexity: Marcel Cadet, Remond, François Frères, Dargaud et Jaeglé, and Rousseau. Malolactic fermentation occurred in barrel. The wine remained un racked until just before blending and bottling.

Tasting Notes

Classic Wildcat Mountain! On the nose; effusive notes of mineral, slate, rich soil, oyster shell, mesquite and dust that lead into a tight, bright, juicy, savory and racy palate of plum, black tea, strawberry and chile relleno. The finish is a delicious mix of raspberry, cracked pepper and violets, and just goes on and on...

Details

Vineyard planted in: 1998

Vine spacing: 6' x 8'

Vine density: 908 vines per acre

Clones/selections: Pommard, Dijon 115, Dijon 777

Rootstock: 110R, 3309, 101-14

pH: 3.59

Titratable acidity: 5.6 g/L

Alcohol: 14.2% by volume

Yield: 2.6 tons of grapes per acre

Barrel aging: 21 months, 57% new French oak

174 cases produced