



TALISMAN

2017 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 of 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.

2017 started with a wet spring, encouraging healthy vine growth and required 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 the grapes at Gunsalus on September 6th. We retained 25% as a whole cluster component; the remaining grapes were sorted and destemmed, then a feral fermentation took off about six days after harvest. Frequent punch-downs took place throughout fermentation, then an extended maceration prior to pressing and barreling. The wine went through malolactic fermentation in French oak barrels. The wine was aged using barrels from five different coopers to help add layers of complexity. Malolactic fermentation occurred in barrel. The wine remained unracked until just before blending and bottling.

Tasting Notes

The bouquet has an oyster shell like minerality, with black cherry, macerated strawberries, and an accent of cinnamon and sarsaparilla, quite enticing... The palate is flirty and energetic, soft and lush. Hints of sour cherry, cedar and a whisper of black pepper, lead to a long, silky, smooth 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: 3.76

Titrateable acidity: 5.7 g/L

Alcohol: 14.8% by volume

Yield: 1.9 tons of grapes per acre

Barrel aging: 20 months, 55% new French oak

Harvested: September 6th

11 barrels / 268 cases produced