



TALISMAN

2017 Gus's 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

Tucked away in a magical valley is a unique plateau at 1100' elevation, on the north flank of Sonoma Mountain. Jim Scopa and Anne Kenner have called this bucolic spot (a former nudist colony) their home since 2004. The calming, peaceful energy is palpable and beckons, where one feels embraced by Sonoma Mountain. Gus (short for Argos) and his companion Cosmo are a couple of the luckiest dogs around. They reign over this beautiful property; another Talisman vineyard named after a wonderful dog. The combination of high elevation and well-drained Gouling loamy soil make this a great location for Pinot Noir, where fog and cool air flowing from the chilly Pacific through the Petaluma Gap seep into the upper reaches of Sonoma Mountain. Grapes on this site ripen very slowly, providing perfect conditions for complete and complex flavor development.

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.

This debut vintage of Gus's Vineyard was harvested on September 5th.

Tasting Notes

The volcanic Sonoma mountain soil really shines through in this minerally beauty... along with graphite, black plum, white pepper, marionberry and a whisper of black licorice. It's masculine, taut and structured yet sports a lovely floral character. Then comes a rush of blueberry, blackberry, orange peel, cranberry and dusty road. The palate is dark, deep, juicy and mouthwatering with ripe fruit, wet slate, sun-dried cherries and black pepper. There's a lot going on in this wine!

Details

Vineyard planted in: 2009

Vineyard elevation: 1,100' above sea level

Clones/selections: Dijon 777

pH: 3.85

Titrateable acidity: 5.9 g/L

Alcohol: 14.9% by volume

Barrel aging: 20 months, 33% new French oak

6 barrels; 147 cases produced