



# TALISMAN

## 2017 Starscape 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

Starscape Vineyard (previously named Floodgate and prior to that, Mark West Vineyard) is located on Trenton-Healdsburg Road on the southern end of an area known as the Middle Reach of the Russian River. The Middle Reach is arguably the most iconic area for Russian River Pinot noir. We source Dijon 777 and an old block of Pommard from a south-facing slope composed of Laniger loam soils. An East-facing slope is the home of a younger planting of Dijon 828, one of the more recent imports to California.

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.

Starscape was picked on two dates; September 11th and 27th. 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 unracked until just before blending and bottling.

### Tasting Notes

Such a beautiful bouquet of violets, boysenberry jam, white pepper and cranberry... On the palate this wine is fascinating; bright, juicy, dense, mouthcoating, savory and rich with flavors of plum, rhubarb, barrel spice, gravel, blackberry, cherry, herbs and a whisper of moist earth. It has so many layers... This wine will reward you with airing time in the decanter or glass.

### Details

Vineyard planted in: 1997

Vineyard elevation: 200' above sea level

Clones/selections: Pommard, Dijon 777 & 828

Harvested: Sept. 6 (Pommard) & Sept. 13 (777 & 828)

pH: 3.79

Titrateable acidity: 6.0 g/L

Alcohol: 14.6% by volume

Yield: 2.7 tons of grapes per acre

Barrel aging: 20 months, 50% new French oak

16 barrels; 387 cases produced