



TALISMAN

2018 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.

The 2018 growing season was ideal. Budbreak was delayed due to late rains that kept soils saturated and cold. Summer arrived with Goldilocks temperatures – neither too cold nor too hot; just perfect. A cooling period in late July put the brakes on and meant that we avoided any late summer heat spikes. Long growing seasons are always highly desirable, as it gives us wines with fully mature, sweet tannins, outstanding color and brightness, depth of fruit, and beautifully balanced wines.

We’ve historically picked Gunsalus the first week of September, but the cool season delayed harvest until September 18. As usual, the winemaking was simple and straightforward – a slow soak until wild yeast began their work was followed by about a week of fermentation. Post-ferment, we sealed the fermenter for an extended maceration and pressed and barreled about 40 days after picking.

Tasting Notes

Big expressive bouquet of blackberry, raspberry, chocolate covered cherries and hint of desert dust, also a bit of tea and bramble. This wine is deep, full, rich, juicy and unctuous with flavors of berry pie, dark chocolate, white pepper, fruit leather and some spice. It possesses brooding heft, but is very alluring with the soft fine grained tannins and is silky and balanced, continuing into a long persistent delicious finish... this is a beauty.

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: 3.70

Titrateable acidity: 5.7 g/L

Alcohol: 14.6% by volume

Yield: 2.3 tons of grapes per acre

Barrel aging: 20 months, 58% new French oak

Harvested: September 6th

17 barrels; 422 cases produced