



TALISMAN

2018 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.

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.

The slow ripening allowed us to pick all three clones September 22. We co-fermented them in a single fermenter utilizing our normal practice or including 25% of the grapes as a whole cluster component. Native yeast came to life after the grapes soaked for about one week. Punch downs were done a minimum of three times every day during the fermentation. After a post-fermentation maceration, we pressed the wine-laden skins, settled the wine overnight to remove the biggest solids, and aged the wine in French oak barrels where native bacteria completed the malolactic fermentation. Twenty-one months later we racked the wine out of the barrels and bottled it just for you! Nothing fancy – just straightforward, simple, honest winemaking. The less we do, the better the wine.

Tasting Notes

Such an enchanting wine, with a bouquet of cherries, vanilla, plum, nutmeg, white pepper, sandalwood, cedar, fresh tobacco, cardamom and Christmas spice. The palate is very complex and welcoming, expressing a fun raspberry zing, cherry cola, red apple skin and a whisper of licorice; all so smooth and beautifully integrated with great acidity and a fabulous, seamless texture. Enjoy now and hold some bottles for a few years. You will be rewarded!

Details

Vineyard planted: 1997

Clones/selections: Pommard, Dijon clones 777 and 828

Yield: 2.7 tons of grapes per acre

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

pH: 3.68

Titrateable acidity: 6.0 g/L

Alcohol: 14.6%

Barrel aging: 20 months, 62% new French oak

13 barrels; 323 cases produced