



TALISMAN

2020 Weir Vineyard Pinot noir Yorkville Highlands

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 Log

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

Planted in 1992, the Weir Vineyard is our most far-flung vineyard. Located in the Yorkville Highlands between Cloverdale and Mendocino, the vineyard's elevation (850'-1000') and aspect place it squarely in the path of cold air flowing in from the Mendocino coast, a mere 17 miles away. The 15 acre vineyard incorporates several soil types, including gravels, highly fractured rock and old sandstone. The topsoil is thin, limiting vine growth and vigor, while promoting concentration in the resulting wines.

The 2020 growing season was mild to moderate overall, with bud break and flowering occurring a week earlier than in 2019, and more spring frost events than typical. Overall, vintners were pleased with the quality of the vintage that had decent but not particularly large yields.

We picked when the stems were well lignified, so we included 30% as a whole cluster component. Then the rest of the grapes were sorted and destemmed, then quietly rested until an ambient fermentation took off about a week after harvest. The fermentation, along with frequent punch-downs, went to completion 10 days later, then the fermenter was sealed up for an extended maceration. Forty two 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 Jaegle, and Rousseau. Malolactic fermentation occurred in barrel. The wine remained unracked until just before blending and bottling.

Tasting Notes

This beautiful Weir Pinot Noir is perfumey with American Beauty rose petal aromas so typical for Weir, with cranberry, briar and red Bing cherry. The palate is silky, soft, round, rich, lush, deep, graceful and mouthwatering. The flavors are loud! It's beautifully balanced with a granite like minerality, baking spice, intense red fruit and a whisper of licorice. It's so complete! Yum.

Details

Vineyard planted: 1992

Elevation: 850-1000

Vine density: 908 vines per acre

Clones/selections: 2A, Pommard, Romanée-Conti, Rochioli

Rootstock: 5C

pH: 3.74

Titrateable acidity: 5.9 g/L

Alcohol: 14.6 % by volume

Yield: 2.6 tons of grapes per acre

Barrel aging: 21 months, 58% new French oak

12 barrels / 300 cases made