



TALISMAN

2019 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 of 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 Goulding 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.

The 2019 growing season started a week or two later than usual with a wet spring, then followed by cool temperatures that allowed the grapes to mature gradually and develop full flavors with fresh acidity and superb balance.

We picked the grapes in Gus's Vineyard on September 24th. The grapes were sorted and destemmed, then quietly rested until a feral fermentation took off about a week after harvest with about 25% as a whole cluster component. The fermentation, along with frequent punch-downs, went to completion a week later, then the fermenter was sealed up for an extended maceration. We then pressed and barreled, using barrels from five different coopers to help add layers of complexity; 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 un racked until just before blending and bottling.

Tasting Notes

A beautiful garnet hue welcomes you as a soft welcoming floral bouquet fills your senses. The nose is wonderfully integrated; deep and rich, dark berry spice, fresh tobacco and a hint of sweet oak. On the palate is a nice firm entry, dark black cherry, boysenberry, cassis and minerally rich clay. It's silky and juicy with fine grained tannins, such a lovely texture that leads to a lively flavorful finish.

Details

Vineyard planted in 2009

Elevation: 1100' above sea level

Clones/selection: Dijon 777

pH 3.96

Titratable acidity: 5.5 g/L

Alcohol: 14.6% by volume

Barrel aging: 19 months, 57% new French

7 barrels / 174 cases made