



2014 FEL PINOT NOIR, ANDERSON VALLEY

FEL Wines produces Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Pinot Gris grown in the Anderson Valley and on the Sonoma Coast. These cool climate regions are known for producing wines of bright acidity and considerable complexity. Crafted by Winemaker Ryan Hodgins, FEL bottlings consistently offer the elusive combination of concentration and elegance.

Vintage

Harvest came early to the Anderson Valley in 2014. A warm, early spring led to bud break in March, several weeks ahead of schedule. Spring turned into summer with consistently warm weather, and the vines' maturity progressed quickly. Veraison, the changing of color and softening of the berries, began in mid-July. Early September was quite pleasant, without any heat spikes, allowing us to pick the grapes as flavors developed without concern of over-ripeness. While a condensed harvest led to long days in the winery, the resulting wines show a finesse and balance found only in the greatest vintages.

Vineyards

This wine is made of a blend of select clones including Pommard, Mt. Eden, Martini, and Dijon from Donnelly Creek, Savoy, Wiley, and Ferrington vineyards in the Anderson Valley appellation.

Winemaking

The fruit was harvested September 2 through 17 at an average of 24.6° Brix, followed by a five to seven day cold soak at 55°F, a nine day primary fermentation peaking at 88-94°F, and a three to seven day extended maceration. The wine was aged sixteen months in 60 gallon French oak barrels, 42% of which were new. Coopers include Cadus, Rousseau, Quintessence, François Frères, and Sirugue.

Winemaker Notes

The aromatics this wine are bright with sweet notes of black cherry, pomegranate, boysenberry, and truffle. Hints of cinnamon, caraway, and toast are reflective of both Anderson Valley's spice driven *terroir*, and the extended aging in French oak barrels. In the mouth, the wine is loaded with rich flavors of dark fruit, cocoa, and spice. The palate is refined with pleasant acidity and elegant tannins that continue to unfold after the last sip. This is a generous wine that will continue to evolve and drink well for at least half a decade.

Analysis

Alcohol: 14.4%
Production: 2,634 cases
Bottling Date: January 26, 2016
Release Date: April 1, 2016