



2015 FEL PINOT NOIR, ANDERSON VALLEY

FEL Wines produces Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Pinot Gris grown in 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

A very mild winter and warm early spring led to the second consecutive early harvest. While a cool May helped delay the growing season slightly, we still started harvesting in August, a first for FEL. Happily, the weather in August and September was relatively mild, and we picked all of our early sites before a few days of heat in mid-September. Yields were down considerably from the previous three vintages and the resulting concentration is immediately apparent in the wines. The precocious harvest with lower-than-average yields resulted in wines marked with refreshing acidity and concentration of flavor.

Vineyards

This wine is 100% Pinot Noir, made of a blend of select clones including Pommard, Mt. Eden, Martini, and Dijon from vineyards including the vaunted Ferrington and Donnelly Creek vineyards, both located just outside the town of Boonville, and our estate Savoy Vineyard, long recognized as a benchmark vineyard in Anderson Valley.

Winemaking

The fruit was harvested August 18 through September 22 at an average of 24.4° Brix. It then went through a five to seven-day cold soak at 55°F, a nine-day primary fermentation peaking at 88-92°F, and a three-day extended maceration. The wine was aged sixteen months in 60 gallon French oak barrels, 34% of which were new. Coopers include Cadus, Rousseau, Quintessence, François Frères, and Sirugue.

Winemaker Notes

Bright and refreshing, the 2015 FEL Anderson Valley Pinot Noir, has loads of fresh raspberry and pie cherry aromatics up front. With time in the glass, more nuanced aromas of mint, black tea, and dried sage add depth and complexity. Flavors of alpine strawberry, pomegranate, and kirsch provide an enticing entry to the palate. The wine's generous acidity and silky tannins provide a lengthy finish that leaves the taster reaching for another sip. This elegant wine will easily age for at least a decade.

Analysis

Alcohol: 14.3%
Production: 2,979 cases
Bottling Date: January 23, 2017
Release Date: April 1, 2017