



2016 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

An abundance of rain falling in January and February helped recharge the soil and fill ponds, providing a much-needed relief from a three-year drought. A warmer than usual March followed, and the growing season progressed quickly, with above average temperatures in May and June propelling us toward our third consecutive early harvest. We were fortunate that the final, and most critical, period of ripening just before harvest was pleasantly warm and free of any heat spikes. The resulting wines are bright, lively, and fruit-forward, but also with great depth and complexity that continues a stunning run of outstanding vintages dating back to 2012.

Vineyards

The grapes were sourced from some of the premier vineyards in the Anderson Valley, including the expressive Ferrington and Donnelly vineyards, both located outside the town of Boonville, as well as our benchmark estate Savoy Vineyard. This wine is 100% Pinot Noir, made of a blend of select clones including Pommard, Mt. Eden, Martini, and Dijon.

Winemaking

The fruit was harvested August 22 through September 27 at an average of 24.2° 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, 38% of which were new. Coopers include Cadus, Rousseau, Quintessence, François Frères, and Sirugue.

Winemaker Notes

Richly aromatic, the nose on this wine is loaded with notes of black cherry, boysenberry, and pomegranate. Subtle hints of dark chocolate, orange peel, and sage add depth and complexity. The palate is lively with fresh acidity which carries delicious flavors of strawberry, plum, toast, and caraway. Fine grained tannins provide a silky structure to the wine and a lengthy finish of succulent fruit flavor. This outstanding example of cool climate Pinot Noir will easily drink well for a decade or more.

Analysis

Alcohol: 14.3%
Production: 3,589 cases
Bottling Date: February 20, 2018
Release Date: April 1, 2018