



2018 FEL PINOT NOIR, ANDERSON VALLEY

FEL Wines produces Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Pinot Gris grown in the Anderson Valley. This cool climate region is 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

The 2018 vintage will be remembered for its consistently mild weather and even growing conditions. A dry winter turned into a very wet March, which replenished the ground water and refilled the ponds. After a final rainstorm in early April, the weather turned pleasant and sunny, with only a handful of days breaking 80°F before mid-June. The weather was perfect for bloom and the result was a larger than normal number of grape berries per cluster. Careful thinning in the vineyards prevented the abundant crop from becoming diluted. The summer progressed without any notable heat spikes until a small heat wave in late September, after most of our grapes had been already harvested. The wines from 2018 are fruit-forward and have a fresh acidity that will allow them to age well for many years.

Vineyards

The grapes were sourced from some of the premier vineyards in the Anderson Valley, including the expressive Ferrington and Donnelly Creek 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 September 10th through October 11th at an average of 24.3° 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, Atelier, Quintessence, Tremeaux, and Sirugue.

Winemaker Notes

The 2018 vintage turned up the amplitude on our Anderson Valley Pinot Noir, it is a surprisingly intense wine that retains its elegance and delicacy. The aromatics are dominated by dark flavors of Earl Grey tea, cassis, black licorice, and ganache. Hints of Spanish Cedar and cloves add further spice, while black cherry, the signature fruit of Anderson Valley Pinot Noir, provides the backbone. In the mouth, layers of spice and fruit continue with flavors of blood orange, pomegranate, persimmon, and more black cherry mingle with notes of black tea, dark chocolate, and anis. The bright acid and silky tannins give the wine a fresh vibrancy.

Analysis

Alcohol:	14.2%
Production:	4,532 cases
Bottling Date:	December 2019
Release Date:	April 2020