



## **2018 FEL PINOT NOIR, SAVOY VINEYARD 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**

Our estate, Savoy Vineyard, long recognized as a benchmark vineyard in Anderson Valley, is located in the “Deep End” of the valley, west of the town of Philo. The maritime influence and moderate daytime temperatures contribute to the wine’s elegant flavor profile and silky tannins. This wine is made of a blend of clones including several Dijon selections, Pommard, Martini, and Calera.

### **Winemaking**

The fruit was harvested in four picks on September 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> and October 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> at an average of 24.0° Brix. It then went through a seven-day cold soak at 50°F, a nine-day primary fermentation, peaking between 90 and 94°F, and a five to seven day extended maceration. The wine was aged sixteen months in 60-gallon French oak barrels, 25% of which were new. Coopers include Quintessence, Tremeaux, and Sirugue.

### **Winemaker Notes**

Savoy Vineyard, the archetypal expression of Anderson Valley Pinot Noir, is always layered and intensely complex. Loaded with enticing aromatics of black cherry, wild brambleberries, and Santa Rosa plum, the nose is furthered with hints of mint, sage, and redwood needles. Simultaneously intense and elegant in the mouth, flavors of black fruit mingle with hints of baking spices, wild herbs, and savory notes of cocoa and black pepper. The palate finishes with a delicate balance of bright acidity and fine-grained tannins.

### **Analysis**

Alcohol: 13.8%  
Production: 468 cases  
Bottling Date: February 28, 2020  
Release Date: October 1, 2020