



## 2019 FEL PINOT GRIS, 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

After a wet winter, the 2019 growing season started with a pleasant spring and lots of sunshine. We were fortunate to have almost no frosty nights following budbreak, but a major rainstorm in late May just as bloom was beginning was a major cause for concern. Once we got into fruit-set (the first time when we can judge the success of pollination), it was clear that our worries were for naught and we had an abundant crop. The summer was warm and even, virtually without heat spikes until a few warm days in late August pushed ripening along. Harvest began at the beginning of September and extended through early October. The wines of the 2019 vintage have bright fruit and a refreshing purity of flavor.

### Vineyards

The fruit for this wine was sourced from the Hein Vineyard located in the “Deep End” of Anderson Valley near the town of Navarro. The vineyard’s close proximity to the Pacific Ocean encourages bright citrus flavors and refreshing acidity in this succulent wine.

### Winemaking

The fruit was harvested on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 23.1° Brix, whole-cluster pressed to tank and settled for 24 hours. The wine was fermented in both neutral French oak barrels (55%) and a 900-gallon French oak oval tank (45%) and aged for 5 months *sur lie*.

### Winemaker Notes

Because our Pinot Gris has the shortest *levage* (time in barrel), it provides us with a first glimpse of the nature of the vintage when it goes to bottle in late winter. The fruit-forward nature of the 2019 vintage is on full display in this wine, which is rich, tropical aromas of guava and papaya. Floral notes of plumeria and orange blossom give the wine an intoxicating bouquet. In the mouth, the wine has a juicy freshness, with a tart quality reminiscent of lemon granita, and flavors of quince and pineapple.

### Analysis

Alcohol:	13.8%
Production:	788 cases
Bottling Date:	February 26, 2020
Release Date:	April 1, 2020