



## **2019 FEL PINOT NOIR, ANDERSON VALLEY**

FEL Wines crafts 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**

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 grapes were sourced from some of the premier vineyards in the Anderson Valley, including the expressive Ferrington and Wendling vineyards, located at opposite ends of the valley, 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 3rd through 30th 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, Atelier, Quintessence, Tremeaux, and Sirugue.

### **Winemaker Notes**

Our 2019 Anderson Valley Pinot Noir reflects the multiple vineyards from which it is sourced and is an excellent example of what makes Anderson Valley such a special place to farm Pinot Noir. Vineyards in the in-land end of the valley are more protected from the constant coastal breeze off the Pacific and provide lovely fruit aromas of black cherry, raspberry, and plum. Vineyards planted in what locals call the “Deep End” close to the ocean are even cooler and the Pinot Noir is more spice driven with notes of cedar, cigar box, and cinnamon. The balance of these fruit and spice components shows off the complexity found in the appellation and the elegantly balanced tannins provide a luscious, lingering finish.

### **Analysis**

|                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Alcohol:       | 14.1%                |
| Production:    | 4,136 cases          |
| Bottling Date: | February 16-17, 2021 |
| Release Date:  | April 1, 2021        |