



2020 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

While the year 2020 will be remembered for a variety of reasons, a particular bright spot was the excellent growing season in Anderson Valley. Budbreak began in late March and a cold snap in early April resulted in some frost damage which reduced the crop at some sites. By mid-April, temperatures warmed, and a mild Spring gave way to a moderately warm Summer. A mid-August heat wave pushed ripening along and we began harvest in late August, about two weeks earlier than normal. The wines from 2020 are reminiscent of other recent vintages such as 2017 that saw August heat spikes that push ripening along while preserving the wine's acidity.

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 proximity to the Pacific Ocean encourages bright citrus flavors and refreshing acidity in this succulent wine.

Winemaking

The fruit was harvested on September 3rd at 22.5° Brix, whole cluster pressed to tank and settled for 24 hours. The wine was fermented in a 900-gallon French oak oval tank and aged for 5 months *sur lie*.

Winemaker Notes

Perhaps the most consistent characteristic, vintage to vintage, of our Anderson Valley Pinot Gris are the aromatics and flavors of pear. Each year we have a discussion as to which type of pear the wine most resembles: some years there are warm spicy notes reminiscent of a Bosc, other years the flavor is more delicate like a D'Anjou. In our 2020, there is a tropical almost melon like flavor that recalls Asian pears. Flavors of Mandarin orange and lemon peel add further depth and the wine's bright acidity leaves a refreshing finish.

Analysis

Alcohol:	13.4%
Production:	384 cases
Bottling Date:	February 22, 2021
Release Date:	April 1, 2021