



## 2020 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 the winemaking team of Ryan Hodgins and Sarah Green, 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 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 accelerated ripening while preserving acidity.

### Vineyards

The grapes were sourced from 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 August 24th through September 12th at an average of 23.9° 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, 40% of which were new. Coopers include Cadus, Atelier, Quintessence, Tremeaux, and Sirugue.

### Winemaker Notes

Our 2020 Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley, is a reflection of the appellation's excellent flavors, aromatics, and textures. What we love about the vineyards that make up this blend is that they are capable of depth, nuance, and concentration without sacrificing freshness and structure. First impressions of black cherry and rose petal on the nose open into mission fig and a citrus character that we associate with our favorite Pinot Noirs. The palate is focused and delicately layered, with darker notes of clove and cola mingling with bright raspberry and currant. Anderson Valley's spice shows in the finish, with a familiar cedar and *sous-bois*, lifted to the last moments by bergamot and the return of the beautiful rose character with which the wine opens.

### Analysis

Alcohol:	13.9%
Production:	2,464 cases
Bottling Date:	January 25, 2022
Release Date:	April 1, 2022