



2020 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 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

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 blend represents the confluence of two eras of Savoy Pinot Noir – the original, mature blocks of Dijon clones 115 and 114, and the younger plantings of California “heritage clones,” including Martini, Calera, Swan and Mt. Eden.

Winemaking

The grapes were harvested across four picks between August 24th and September 10th at an average of 23.9° Brix. After a three-day cold soak at 50°F and seven-day primary fermentation peaking at 90°F, the grapes were pressed promptly at the conclusion of primary fermentation. The wine was aged sixteen months in 60-gallon French oak barrels, 24% of which were new.

Winemaker Notes

Our flagship Pinot Noir is a reflection of the Savoy Vineyard that we call home. Perched between the last stand of old-growth redwoods in Anderson Valley and a flank of hills shrouded in oaks and chapparal, Savoy is a study in terroir. Like the vineyard, the wine’s texture is polished with delicate edges. The nearby woods come through in the spiced plum and sumac nose, while the rugged California hills are alive in the concentrated boysenberry and date palate, with a lingering floral quality of rose petal.

Analysis

Alcohol: 13.9%
Bottling Date: February 24, 2022
Release Date: October 2022
Production: 606 cases