



## 2012 FEL PINOT NOIR, SPIRITUS SAVOY VINEYARD ANDERSON VALLEY

FEL Wines produces Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, and Pinot Gris grown in the 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

The 2012 vintage is proving to be one of the most exciting years for grape growers and winemakers in recent memory. The year started dry with considerable worry whether there would be sufficient water for the growing season. However, record setting rains in late March filled the ponds and saturated the soil, providing the vines with the moisture needed for early-season growth. Our grapevines benefited from warm weather in July and August without any significant heat waves. By mid-summer it was clear that an abundant crop had set and vigorous fruit thinning was required to maintain vine balance and ensure concentration of flavor in each grape. Harvest began in mid-September and finished on October 20th, two days before the first rains of the season arrived. The resulting wines of 2012 have striking intensity and balance, and show great promise to be our most age-worthy wines yet.

### Vineyards

This wine is made of a blend of select clones including Dijon 114 and 667, and Pommard from our Estate Savoy Vineyard near the town of Philo in the Anderson Valley Appellation.

### Winemaking

The fruit was harvested on September 24 and October 6 at an average of 25.2° Brix. It then went through a seven day cold soak at 50°F, a nine day uninoculated primary fermentation peaking between 90 and 94°F, and a seven day extended maceration. The wine was aged fourteen months in 100% new French oak barrels. Coopers include François Frères and Quintessence.

### Winemaker Notes

In an effort to capture the essence of this celebrated vineyard site, 2012 *Spiritus* is a selection of just three barrels. Latin for “breath,” “spirit,” or “energy,” we believe this small bottling is the highest expression of this location and defines its central character. The aromatics are highlighted by black cherry, cassis, cacao nibs, cedar, and nutmeg. The palate is rich and voluptuous, exploding with sweet flavors of cherry and toast. Fine grained tannins provide plenty of structure and ensure the wines will age for at least a decade or more.

### Analysis

Alcohol: 14.7%  
Production: 58 cases  
Bottling Date: January 15, 2014  
Release Date: February 15, 2015