



2012 FEL PINOT NOIR, 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 around Boonville 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 a mix of Dijon selections, Pommard, Martini, and Calera from our Estate Savoy Vineyard near the town of Philo in the Anderson Valley Appellation.

Winemaking

The fruit was harvested September 24 through October 6 at an average of 24.6° Brix. It then went through a seven day cold soak at 50°F, a nine day uninoculated primary fermentation peaking between 90°F and 94°F, and a seven day extended maceration. The wine was aged fourteen months in 60 gallon French oak barrels, 56% of which were new. Coopers include Cadus, Damy, Rousseau, François Frères and Sirugue.

Winemaker Notes

Savoy Vineyard's signature aromatics of black cherry, mint, and savory spices are particularly intense this vintage. As the wine breathes, the bouquet evolves and hints of cedar, toast, and cassis begin to appear. The weight and texture of the wine is particularly striking as flavors of black cherry, Bing cherry, kirsch, and Mission Fig explode in the mouth. Always among the most age-worthy of Anderson Valley Pinot Noirs, this Savoy will develop gracefully for many years to come.

Analysis

Alcohol: 14.2%
Production: 645 cases
Bottling Date: January 15, 2014
Release Date: December 1, 2014