



2013 FEL PINOT NOIR, 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

While 2013 will be remembered in the history books as California's driest year on record to date, the heavy rains of December 2012 filled the ponds and recharged the soil allowing the 2013 vintage to proceed largely unaffected by the drought. Indeed, the 2013 growing season was nearly perfect and looks to rival the much heralded 2012 vintage. For the second consecutive year, the vines set a bountiful crop that required intensive thinning to ensure even ripening and flavor development. The consistently warm summer led to an early start to harvest in vineyards around Boonville, but a cool second half of September allowed it to extend into mid-October.

Vineyards

This wine is made of a blend of select clones including Pommard, Mt. Eden, Martini, and Dijon from Donnelly Creek, Savoy, Wiley, and Ferrington vineyards in the Anderson Valley Appellation.

Winemaking

The fruit was harvested September 6 through October 15 at an average of 24.7° Brix. It then went through a five to seven day cold soak at 55°F, a nine day uninoculated primary fermentation at 88-94°F, and a three to seven day extended maceration. The wine was aged fourteen months in 60 gallon French oak barrels, 38% of which were new. Coopers include Cadus, Damy, Rousseau, François Frères and Sirugue.

Winemaker Notes

The intensity of the 2013 vintage is immediately apparent on the nose of the FEL Anderson Valley Pinot Noir which is rich with aromatics of black cherry, pomegranate, and cola. Hints of blackberry, mint, and toast add to the complexity. On the palate the wine sings with rich flavors of more cherry and spice. The robust tannins and ample acidity give the wine structure and definition that will ensure great ageability in the wine.

Analysis

Alcohol: 14.6%
Production: 2,347 cases
Bottling Date: January 14 and 15, 2015
Release Date: May 1, 2015