



2013 FEL PINOT NOIR, FERRINGTON 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

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 resulted in a leisurely harvest that extended into mid-October.

Vineyards

This wine is made of a blend of Wädenswil and the Dijon clones 115 and 777 from Ferrington Vineyard, located just outside the town of Boonville in the Anderson Valley Appellation.

Winemaking

The fruit was harvested September 6 through 13 at an average of 24.3° 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 to fourteen day extended maceration. The wine was aged fifteen months in 60 gallon French oak barrels, 57% of which were new. Coopers include Cadus, Damy, Rousseau, François Frères and Sirugue.

Winemaker Notes

Ferrington is perhaps our most consistent vineyard in its aromatic character from vintage to vintage. The 2013 is loaded with intense aromatics of pie cherry, raspberry, and a hint of cola. Rich flavors of strawberry, rhubarb, and hints of nutmeg are reminiscent of a great slice of pie. Yet bright acidity and supple tannins keep this delicious wine fresh and never cloying. While this beautiful wine is drinking splendidly now, patience will be rewarded as it ages gracefully for a decade or more.

Analysis

Alcohol: 14.3%
Production: 348 cases
Bottling Date: January 14, 2015
Release Date: December 1, 2015