



## **2013 FEL PINOT NOIR, DONNELLY CREEK 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 Pommard and Stang clones from two different blocks at Donnelly Creek Vineyard, located just outside the town of Boonville in the Anderson Valley Appellation.

### **Winemaking**

The fruit was harvested September 16 and October 9 at an average of 24.8° 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 twenty day extended maceration. The wine was aged fifteen months in 60 gallon French oak barrels, 66% of which were new. Coopers include Cadus, Damy, Rousseau, and François Frères.

### **Winemaker Notes**

Every year Donnelly Creek is consistently the most structured and black fruit driven of our single vineyard designate Pinot Noirs, and the 2013 is no exception – aromas of black cherry, Mission fig, and boysenberry waft from the glass in abundance. Hints of toast and vanilla from the new French oak are also apparent. In the mouth, the wine is richly flavored with more black cherry, cocoa, pomegranate, cedar and toast. The robust tannins support the palate and will allow the wine to age gracefully for at least a decade.

### **Analysis**

Alcohol: 14.8%  
Production: 195 cases  
Bottling Date: January 14, 2015  
Release Date: February 1, 2016