



2015 FEL CHARDONNAY, 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

In 2015, a mild winter and warm spring led to the second consecutive early harvest. While a cool May helped delay the growing season slightly, harvest began in August — a first for FEL. Happily, the weather in August and September was relatively mild, and we were able to pick all of our early sites before temperatures rose in mid-September, preserving the grapes' crisp acidity. Yields were down considerably from the previous three vintages, and the resulting concentration of flavor is immediately apparent in the 2015 FEL wines.

Vineyards

This Chardonnay is a blend of numerous Heritage clones and Dijon selections. Sources include our estate Savoy Vineyard, long recognized as a benchmark vineyard in Anderson Valley, and the vaunted Ferrington Vineyard.

Winemaking

The fruit was first harvested between August 20th and September 18th at an average of 22.4° Brix, then whole cluster pressed to tank, and finally settled for 24 hours. Fermentation occurred in neutral French oak barrels, and very limited malolactic fermentation was permitted. The wine was aged *sur lie*, without stirring, for nine months.

Winemaker Notes

The signature of our Anderson Valley Chardonnay is its bright fruit and fresh flavors that are on full display due to the absence of new oak or malolactic fermentation. The nose is rich with aromas of green melon, Granny Smith apple, and grapefruit. On the palate, bright flavors of Meyer lemon, Asian pear, and white peach give way to subtle hints of quince and apple pie. The refreshing acidity leaves a mouthwatering finish that invites another sip. — Ryan Hodgins, Winemaker

Analysis

Alcohol: 13.8%
Production: 1,672 cases
Bottling Date: August 1, 2016
Release Date: December 1, 2016