



2014 FEL PINOT NOIR, HIRSCH VINEYARD SONOMA COAST

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

Harvest came early for the Sonoma Coast in 2014. A warm, early spring led to bud break in March, several weeks early. Spring turned into summer with consistently warm weather, and the vines' maturity progressed quickly. Veraison, the changing of color and softening of the berries, began in mid-July. The first two weeks of September were quite pleasant, without any heat spikes, allowing us to pick the grapes as the flavors developed without concern of over-ripeness. While the condensed harvest led to long days in the winery, the resulting wines show a finesse and balance found only in the greatest vintages.

Vineyards

This wine is made of a blend of Dijon 777 and Pommard clones from two different blocks at the acclaimed Hirsch Vineyard, located less than three miles from the Pacific Ocean on the Sonoma Coast. The vineyard's high elevation, over 1,400 feet, puts the site above the fog line that consistently hugs the Pacific Coast through the summer months. This results in mild days that produce Pinot Noir noted for its pretty red fruit, floral notes, and elegance.

Winemaking

The fruit was harvested on September 2nd and 8th at an average of 24.1° Brix. It then went through a five-day cold soak at 50°F, an eight-day uninoculated primary fermentation peaking at 92°F, and a three-to-eight-day extended maceration. The wine was aged sixteen months in 60 gallon French oak barrels, 38% of which were new. Coopers include Rousseau, François Frères, and Billon.

Winemaker Notes

With its abundant aromatics of red cherry and pomegranate, our 2014 Hirsch Pinot is reflective of the fruit-forward nature of this early vintage. Given time in the glass, subtle spice layers — cinnamon, nutmeg, and clove — appear, adding layers of complexity to the wine's nose. In the mouth, sweet flavors of red cherry are once again most immediately notable, but there is great depth and richness to this delicious expression of cool-climate Pinot Noir from the "True Sonoma Coast."

Analysis

Alcohol: 14.3%
Production: 291 cases
Bottling Date: January 27, 2016
Release Date: February 1, 2017