



2015 FEL PINOT NOIR, SAVOY 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

A very mild winter and warm early spring led to the second consecutive early harvest. While a cool May helped delay the growing season slightly, we still started harvesting in August, a first for FEL. Happily, the weather in August and September was relatively mild, and we picked all of our early sites before a few days of heat in mid-September. Yields were down considerably from the previous three vintages and the resulting concentration is immediately apparent in the wines. The precocious harvest with lower-than-average yields resulted in wines marked with refreshing acidity and concentration of flavor.

Vineyards

Our estate Savoy Vineyard, long recognized as a benchmark vineyard in Anderson Valley, is located in the “Deep End” of the valley, west of the town of Philo. The maritime influence and moderate daytime temperatures contribute to the wine’s elegant flavor profile and silky tannins. This wine is made of a blend of clones including several Dijon selections, Pommard, Martini, and Calera.

Winemaking

The fruit was harvested in three picks on August 20th, 24th, and September 14th at an average of 24.1° 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 ten day extended maceration. The wine was aged fifteen months in 60-gallon French oak barrels, 47% of which were new. Coopers include Cadus, Quintessence, Rousseau, François Frères and Sirugue.

Winemaker Notes

Aromatic waves of black cherry, pomegranate, and boysenberry fill the glass of this elegantly concentrated wine. Subtle notes of anise, black tea leaves, and redwood needles add further depth and complexity to the nose. The weight and concentration of this heady wine is immediately apparent in the mouth, with dense layers of black fruit, pencil shavings, and hints of cocoa. The velvet-like tannins provide structure that is punctuated by a refreshingly acidic finish that lingers in the mouth for several minutes. This wine will age gracefully for a full decade or more.

Analysis

Alcohol: 14.4%
Production: 402 cases
Bottling Date: January 24, 2017
Release Date: October 1, 2017