



2016 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

An abundance of rain falling in January and February helped recharge the soil and fill ponds, providing needed relief from a three-year drought. A warmer than usual March followed and the growing season progressed quickly, with above average temperatures in May and June propelling us toward our third consecutive early harvest. We were fortunate that the final, and most critical, period of ripening just before harvest was pleasantly warm and free of any heat spikes. The resulting wines are bright, lively, and fruit-forward, but also with great depth and complexity that continues a stunning run of outstanding vintages dating back to 2012.

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 25th and September 14th at an average of 22.5° 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

Fresh aromatics of lemon zest, pineapple, and verbena leap from the glass of this pure expression of cool climate Chardonnay. Unencumbered by new oak and malolactic, this refreshingly bright wine focuses on the clean fruit flavors so often lost in more heavy-handed styles of Chardonnay. Flavors of quince, white nectarine, and Lisbon lemon fill the palate and crisp mouthwatering acidity punctuates the finish.

Analysis

Alcohol: 13.9%
Production: 2,978 cases
Bottling Date: July 18-19, 2017
Release Date: December 1, 2017