



2017 FEL PINOT NOIR, WENDLING 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

California's five-year drought ended in the winter of 2016/17, with heavy rains continuing to fall through the spring, filling ponds, saturating the soil and providing vines with the moisture needed for early-season growth. Our grapevines benefited from warm weather in June and July without any significant heat waves. A weeklong heatwave in late August accelerated ripening and we began picking grapes in the warmer Boonville end of Anderson Valley on September 1st. A couple of cooler weeks in late September slowed ripening and allowed for a more leisurely harvest that lasted into early October.

Vineyard

Wendling Vineyard is owned and farmed by Paul Ardzrooni, whose vineyard management company farms many of the most acclaimed vineyards in Anderson Valley including our own Savoy Vineyard. Located in the deepest end of the "Deep End," Wendling is the last vineyard before the valley closes and the Navarro River meanders a last few miles to the Mendocino Coast. Perched on a steep east facing hillside that protects the vines from the relentless cooling of the ocean's onshore. Wendling is a meticulously farmed vineyard and produces wines of great depth and concentration. This wine is made of a blend of clones including several Dijon selections, Pommard, and a *Selection Massale* of cuttings recently brought over from Burgundy.

Winemaking

The fruit was harvested on September 8th at an average of 23.8° Brix. It then went through a five-day cold soak at 50°F, a nine-day primary fermentation, peaking between 90 and 94°F, and a five-day extended maceration. The wine was aged sixteen months in 60-gallon French oak barrels, 33% of which were new. Coopers include Cadus and Quintessence.

Winemaker Notes

This is the inaugural vintage of our newest vineyard designated wine – our first new single vineyard bottling since 2012. Wendling Pinot Noir is a lovely blend of dark fruit aromatics: blackberry, date, and cassis. The palate has excellent texture and weight, with velvety tannins and considerable power, brightened by spicy cinnamon, cacao, and truffle.

Analysis

Alcohol: 13.9%
Production: 132 cases
Bottling Date: February 8, 2019
Release Date: December 1, 2019