

FEL

2018 FEL PINOT NOIR, SAVOY VINEYARD ANDERSON VALLEY

Vintage

The 2018 vintage will be remembered for its consistently mild weather and even growing conditions. A dry winter turned into a very wet March, which replenished the ground water and refilled the ponds. After a final rainstorm in early April, the weather turned pleasant and sunny, with only a handful of days breaking 80°F before mid-June. The weather was perfect for bloom and the result was a larger than normal number of grape berries per cluster. Careful thinning in the vineyards prevented the abundant crop from becoming diluted. The summer progressed without any notable heat spikes until a small heat wave in late September, after most of our grapes had been already harvested. The wines from 2018 are fruit-forward and have a fresh acidity that will allow them to age well for many years.

Vineyards

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 four picks on September 20th and 27th and October 4th and 11th at an average of 24.0° Brix. It then went through a seven-day cold soak at 50°F, a nine-day primary fermentation, peaking between 90 and 94°F, and a five to seven day extended maceration. The wine was aged sixteen months in 60-gallon French oak barrels, 25% of which were new. Coopers include Quintessence, Tremeaux, and Sirugue.

Winemaker Notes

Loaded with enticing aromatics of black cherry, wild brambleberries, and Santa Rosa plum, the nose is furthered with hints of mint, sage, and redwood needles. Simultaneously intense and elegant in the mouth, flavors of black fruit mingle with hints of baking spices, wild herbs, and savory notes of cocoa and black pepper. The palate finishes with a delicate balance of bright acidity and fine-grained tannins.

Analysis

Alcohol: 13.8%
Bottling Date: February 28, 2020
Release Date: October 1, 2020

Accolades

94 Points, *Wine Enthusiast*