



EARLY
MOUNTAIN

2016 Block 9 Pinot Gris

*At the foot of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, nature is at once graceful and fierce. Early Mountain wines are made here through a combination of ingenuity and true grit. We gently tend to every vine so the wine that emerges from the cellar is a clear descendant of the fruit at harvest — a unique wine that respects its heritage while embracing evolution and adventure. **Virginian through and through.***

Grape Variety: 100% Pinot Gris

Winemaker Note: When asked to name a favorite block at EMV, our vineyard manager, Maya, immediately will say, "Block 9!" Located nearest the winery, it is home to 1.4 acres of Pinot Gris, and three misplanted vines of Pinot Blanc. Block 9 has always been somewhat of an anomaly for Pinot Gris in Virginia; it has shown an impressive ability to self-balance, as well as withstand weather/rain that would require us to pick any other other block of Pinot Gris we grow. We are able to hang the fruit to greater ripeness, all while maintaining a balancing acidity, which results. We fermented this block in 600L Acacia barrel and stainless steel, for texture and complexity, followed by a 9 month aging on lees.

Wine Description: The round and dense mouthfeel of this wine is one of its most notable attributes. It's weight and character, accompany diverse aromatics of fresh and grilled stone fruit, citrus and a confectionary apple/baking spice, that lead to hints of savory bay, thyme and pine.

Food Pairing: While Pinot Gris is often destined for lighter foods, the Block 9 Pinot Gris can hold its own with weightier dishes such as grilled vegetables and hearty pasta. Block 9's acidity creates a nice balance for rich dishes and is a favorite pairing with alpine cheeses.

Cellaring: This wine can be enjoyed now, but will also age for 2-5 years

In the Vineyard: 2016 began with very cold winter temperatures and early spring showers. Though the summer saw normal levels of precipitation, the latter portion of the growing season was warm and dry, making for ripe and concentrated whites, leading to significant rain events later in the fall. The fruit for the components of this wine was picked prior to major rain events, resulting in high quality raw material for the wine.

Vineyard Block: EMV Block 9

Clone/Rootstock: Pinot Gris 5, 101-14

Technical:

Cases produced: 92

Bottled: 1 August 2017

Alcohol: 13.6%

Yeast: Ambient

pH: 3.31

TA: 5.05 g/L

RS: 1.57 g/L, Dry

