

Littorai

2018 Roman Vineyard Pinot Noir

History and Philosophy

Littorai Wines is a small, family-owned and operated winery producing vineyard designated Chardonnay and Pinot Noir from the true north coast of California: the coastal mountains of Sonoma and Mendocino Counties. Proprietors Heidi and Ted Lemon are lifelong Winemakers. Ted Lemon began his career at the age of 22 by working for four years in the heart of Burgundy and in 1982, was the first American hired to manage a property in Burgundy at Domaine Guy Roulot in Meursault. Where some see technology as the route to great wines, we see farming. We derive our sustainable farming techniques from the fertile cross currents of permaculture, agro-ecology and biodynamics. Our winery is situated on a 30 acre integrated biodynamic farm where we produce as many of the vineyard and farm needs on site as possible. Our Estate produced compost is our “fertilizer” of choice.

Expressed in acreage terms, beginning in 2017:

- 100% of Littorai’s vineyard sources is farmed using only organically certified materials
- 85% is farmed using biodynamic methods (all sites we own or lease and most others)
- 49% is estate production

The goal of winegrowing is to produce the finest wine, and that such wine should be a product of the vineyard, not the cellar.

Vineyard

Roman is a beautiful hilltop vineyard situated at 1150 feet elevation in the middle of Anderson Valley. It is northwest of the town of Philo. While it sits just above the fog line, the strong coastal winds have a great effect on this vineyard. The sandstone soils stress the vines and make for amazingly structured and perfumed wines.

Vintage Information

It was clear during the harvest period that this was going to be a great vintage. The combination of fruit health, plenty of time to pick each site at the perfect ripeness with no weather pressure, and the inherent quality of the vintage all conspired to produce an exceptional result. The 2018 wines have ample richness, which, depending on the individual vineyard, may, for the time being, be hiding behind the significant tannins and lovely acidities. Yet none of the wines are truly driven by tannin. The tannins themselves are fine and generous, so that one is never left with a drying impression on the palate. This is the “holy grail” combination, particularly for Pinot Noir. The 2018s will show very well young and should age effortlessly for many years.

Tasting Notes

Soaring aromas of flowers, rose petal, blackberry tart, orange peel, Cointreau, confectionary notes, cranberry, Asian spices. You might expect Roman to be particularly firm in a classic year like 2018. Not so! There is plenty of tannin concentration here but this builds slowly across the palate, with good tannin density, lots of length and delicacy. Some vintages of Roman take time to develop aromatically but this one is absolutely singing. Nevertheless, it has a very long and promising future.

APPELLATION

Anderson Valley

SOILS

Boont loam over Sandstone

FARMING

Farmed using organic materials and biodynamic methods, not certified

VINE AGE

Planted in 1999

ACREAGE

1.8 acres total of Pinot Noir farmed by Littorai

YIELD

2.35 tons per acre in 2018

CLONES

Dijon 114 and 667 and a proprietary clone

WHOLE CLUSTER

16% in 2018

BARREL AGEING

16 months French Oak, 25% new

PRODUCTION

210 cases

ALCOHOL

12.4% abv

