

# Littorai

## 2018 Savoy 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

What attracted Littorai to this area of Savoy is an old world notion that the best parcels within a vineyard lie at the toe of the slope. Adding to that is the complexity of clones within the Savoy vineyard. Our rows of Savoy are located at the base of the hills on the northeastern side of the Anderson valley. While this is the cooler end of the valley, the vineyard is protected on two sides. Thus the site is warmer than most of its neighbors.

### 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

Few wines in 2018 are more compelling than Savoy. Four different fermenters were blended to produce this wine, including a 100% whole cluster fermenter. Every lot had significant depth of concentration, color and complexity. The assemblage has produced surprisingly delicate floral notes, violets, orange zest, pomegranate and a hint of black pepper and sweet cream. Lovely mid-palate richness with lots of concentrated tannin hint at the exceptional potential for this structured Savoy bottling. Patience will be richly rewarded here. The assemblage is 50% whole cluster, which is unusually high for Littorai.

#### APPELLATION

Anderson Valley

#### SOILS

Pinole and Boont loams over Franciscan shale

#### FARMING

Farmed using organic materials, not certified

#### VINE AGE

Planted in 1991, 1992, 1993

#### ACREAGE

5 acres of Chardonnay, 38 acres of Pinot Noir. Littorai receives 4.37 acres of Pinot Noir

#### YIELD

2.63 tons per acre in 2018

#### CLONES

Dijon 114, 115, 667, 777, Calera and Pommard

#### WHOLE CLUSTER

50% in 2018

#### BARREL AGEING

16 months French Oak, 25% new

#### PRODUCTION

650 cases

#### ALCOHOL

12.7% abv

