

# Littorai

## 2018 Thieriot 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

Thieriot Vineyard is located southwest of the town of Occidental, overlooking Bodega at an elevation of 900’. It is protected from the northwest winds and fog by a ridge to the north. The soil of the Chardonnay block is Gold Ridge loam and the Pinot is a combination of Gold Ridge and Josephine series. Littorai has a long term lease on this site, meaning that we farm it as if an estate vineyard. We have farmed it for over a decade now. Both the Pinot Noir and Chardonnay are farmed using biodynamic methods but are not certified.

### 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

Like smelling a deep and dark well of water high up in the mountains. Don’t ask me what that means, it was the image that came to my mind at our last blind tasting before bottling...candied notes, blackberry, rhubarb, pomegranate, blueberry, coffee bean, Asian spices, soy, hoisin, black pepper. This is a very fresh, rich, complete and hedonistic wine with pronounced acidity and is very long and understated, like dappled sunlight on a cool, midsummer afternoon. Formidable.

#### APPELLATION

Sonoma Coast

#### SOILS

Gold Ridge loam over sandstone & Josephine series

#### FARMING

Farmed using organic materials and biodynamic methods, not certified

#### VINE AGE

Planted in 1991 and 1994

#### CLONES

Swann, Pommard, Dijon 114 & 777, Calera and a proprietary clone

#### WHOLE CLUSTER

8% in 2018

#### YIELD

1.94 tons per acre in 2018

#### BARREL AGEING

16 months French Oak, 25% new

#### PRODUCTION

95 cases

#### ALCOHOL

12.8% abv

