

# Littorai

## 2019 Cerise 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

Cerise is a beautiful hillside vineyard situated between 800 and 1100 feet elevation in the northeast range of mountains above the town of Booneville. This is the warmer side of the Anderson Valley, where, with the fog intrusion, you find great diurnal swings. Coupled with poor top soils, this steep exposition allows for us to harvest fruit with a high skin-to- juice ratio from the struggling vines. The soils vary within the three cascading hills that make up Littorai’s parcels of the vineyard allowing for complex and well-structured wines.

### Vintage Information

The crop in 2019 was moderately large and required some crop load reduction. Malic acid numbers were much lower in 2019 compared to the high malics of 2018. Final alcohols on the wines were slightly less than in 2018, with only a single bottled wine over 13%. While ethanol levels may not matter to some, our ambition is to produce complex, physiologically ripe wines at modest alcohol levels as this has health benefits and creates wines which are more suitable as accompaniment to fine foods. While the 2018 wines are structured and demand patience in the cellar, the 2019s are more floral, perfumed and delicate. This is not to say that they lack concentration or will not age and improve as much in the cellar as the 2018s. They are simply a different expression of Pinot Noir and are less tannic than the 2018s at a similar age.

### Tasting Notes

Very intense floral bouquet: violets and roses, crisp red apple. Wonderful richness on the palate entry with more than enough mature tannin to counterbalance the richness. The excellent acidity provides a very fresh finish. This is an open, plush version of Cerise with silky tannins. It is as if the spirit of the vineyard wanted to make up for the fact that there was no 2018. This is a special wine.

#### APPELLATION

Anderson Valley

#### SOILS

Shallow clay loam overlying shale and serpentine derived rock with marine origin sandstone

#### ACREAGE

57 acres of Pinot Noir, 3 acres of Chardonnay.

Littorai receives 5 acres from the original property.

#### FARMING

Farmed using organic materials and biodynamic methods, not certified

#### VINE AGE

Planted in 1998

#### CLONES

David Bruce (Martin Ray), 667, 777 and 2 proprietary clones

#### WHOLE CLUSTER

37% in 2019

#### BARREL AGEING

16 months French Oak, 25% new

#### PRODUCTION

458 cases

#### ALCOHOL

12.7% abv

