

# Littorai

## 2019 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

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

Vibrant, very primary, finely etched tones of cherry, boysenberry, pomegranate and citrus, even lime (not an aroma we normally associate with red wines). Floral tones of lilac as well as cola notes. Wonderful richness and texture on entry with slightly grainy tannin which will need a bit of time to resolve. So fresh and lingering on the finish, the acidity is lovely. One of our favorite 2019s which will drink very well both immediately and for years to come.

#### 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

2.59 tons per acre in 2019

#### CLONES

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

#### WHOLE CLUSTER

57% in 2019

#### BARREL AGEING

16 months French Oak,  
25% new

#### PRODUCTION

300 cases

#### ALCOHOL

12.8% abv

