



## 2019 The Haven 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

The Haven is our original Estate vineyard. Planted in 2001, The Haven is a microcosm of the diversity of soils within the Sonoma Coast, containing uplifted undersea volcanics, sandstones, shales and loams. The Haven is located at 1200 feet elevation between the tiny town of Occidental and the Pacific Ocean. It lies on an east-west ridge and from its southfacing slope one can see the fog-enshrouded ocean in the distance. The Haven is late ripening and very cool. It is one of the last sites we harvest every year.

### 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 primary aromas: rhubarb, pomegranate, Rainier cherry, alpine strawberry, stone fruit compote, violets, redwood bark, forest floor, cedar, and cigar box. This wine pulls off a beautiful balancing act between elegant, silky tannins and slow building tannin and acidity which carry it to a very long finish. This is such a charmer that it will be hard to resist drinking young but carries much promise for the future.

APPELLATION  
Sonoma Coast

SOILS  
Hugo-Josephine loams; the property is very heterogeneous with uplifted undersea volcanics, sandstones, shales, and serpentine-derived loams

FARMING  
Farmed using organic materials and biodynamic methods, not certified

VINE AGE  
Planted in 2001

ACREAGE  
4 acres of Pinot Noir

YIELD  
1.6 tons per acre in 2019

CLONES  
12 selections

WHOLE CLUSTER  
46% in 2019

BARREL AGEING  
16 months French Oak, 25% new

PRODUCTION  
328 cases

ALCOHOL  
12.5% abv

