



2019 The Pivot 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

Heidi and Ted Lemon purchased the Gold Ridge Estate in 2003 with the intention of building the “model farm.” The Pivot Vineyard is 3 acres within the 30 acre estate, making it one component of the biodiverse ecosystem. Farmed using biodynamic methods since it’s inception, The Pivot sits on classic Gold Ridge soils over marine-origin sandstone. This clay within dynamic soil type allows for just enough water retention to feed the vines in an average 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

Unlike Mays Canyon or Wendling, this wine is all about elegance and finesse. Pomegranate, dried cranberry, red licorice, yellow rose, citrus tones and graphite. This is a very expressive wine aromatically and the palate follows suit with supple tannins that build slowly on the palate, great fruit intensity and seductive richness. Bury the 2018 Pivot in the cellar and enjoy this now. One of the most precocious and flamboyant of the 2019s.

<u>APPELLATION</u> Sonoma Coast
<u>SOILS</u> Gold Ridge loam over marine origin sandstone
<u>FARMING</u> Farmed using organic materials and biodynamic methods, not certified
<u>VINE AGE</u> Planted in 2004
<u>ACREAGE</u> 2.8 acres of Pinot Noir
<u>YIELD</u> 2.69 tons per acre in 2019
<u>CLONES</u> Dijon 667, 114 & 777, Swann, Calera and a proprietary clone
<u>WHOLE CLUSTER</u> 41% in 2019
<u>BARREL AGEING</u> 16 months French Oak, 25% new
<u>PRODUCTION</u> 367 cases
<u>ALCOHOL</u> 13.0% abv

