

Littorai

2019 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

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

Explodes with floral notes, almost like walking into a flower shop! Apple blossom. These yield to tones of mulberry, black currents, raspberry, black pepper, anise, ginger and orange peel. The palate attack is delicate and so elegant at first, with all elements in harmony yet slowly the tannins emerge, and the very long finish is driven by slow building acidity. Drink this charming Thieriot while cellaring the 2018.

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
10% in 2019

YIELD
1.14 tons per acre in 2019

BARREL AGEING
16 months French Oak, 25% new

PRODUCTION
114 cases

ALCOHOL
12.7% abv

