



## 2020 Cerise Vineyard Anderson Valley 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.

### 2020 Vintage Information

The 2020 year was yet another tragic year for wildfires in Napa and Sonoma counties. The presence of many weeks of smoke damaged our crops on the Sonoma Coast. We did not produce any Sonoma Coast Pinot Noirs in 2020 except for Mays Canyon Pinot Noir, which was picked before the fires affected the vineyard. We made this decision early, opting to leave the fruit unpicked on the vines. We are in the business of producing world-class wines and that is our commitment to you. 2020 was the first year we have decided not to harvest such a large portion of our production. While initially the crop in 2020 was relatively abundant, the combination of extensive crop drops due to the effects of heat waves and drought, as well as our attempt to accelerate ripening due to the fires, reduced the crop levels dramatically. Additionally, we sorted aggressively at the winery. We declassified much of the fruit from Savoy, Cerise, One Acre, The Return, and Roman into the Les Larmes bottling. All of these efforts paid enormous dividends in the final bottlings of the vineyard designated wines. The path was tortuous, but we are delighted in the results.

### Tasting Notes

Cranberry, rhubarb, red apple, sour cherry, a balsamic note, and a touch of forest floor. As is typical of Cerise at a young age, this is a shy wine packing great tannin density in a tightly wound core. One of us described it as lean and energetic, like sunlight on a cold, clear Winter day.

#### 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

0% in 2020

#### BARREL AGEING

16 months French Oak, 25% new

#### YIELD

1.80 tons in 2020

#### PRODUCTION

208 cases

#### ALCOHOL

12.8% abv

