

Littorai

2020 Roman 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

Roman is a beautiful hilltop vineyard situated at 1150 feet elevation in the middle of Anderson Valley. It is northwest of the town of Philo. While it sits just above the fog line, the strong coastal winds have a great effect on this vineyard. The sandstone soils stress the vines and make for amazingly structured and perfumed 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

Intriguing iron, mineral, earth notes, decaying leaves, rhubarb, crayon, oak bark, and cacao. Lovely acidity dominates this wine, which has softer tannins than many (a surprise for the usually assertive Roman.) It has a beautiful, understated, precise profile with tannins and acidity already in harmony. This wine begs for food and should age beautifully for many years to come.

APPELLATION
Anderson Valley

SOILS
Boont loam over Sandstone

FARMING
Farmed using organic materials and biodynamic methods, not certified

VINE AGE
Planted in 1999

ACREAGE
1.8 acres total of Pinot Noir farmed by Littorai

YIELD
2.15 tons per acre in 2020

CLONES
Dijon 114 and 667 and a proprietary clone

WHOLE CLUSTER
0% in 2020

BARREL AGEING
16 months French Oak,
25% new

PRODUCTION
158 cases

ALCOHOL
12.2% abv

