

Littorai

2020 Savoy 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

What attracted Littorai to this area of Savoy is an old world notion that the best parcels within a vineyard lie at the toe of the slope. Adding to that is the complexity of clones within the Savoy vineyard. Our rows of Savoy are located at the base of the hills on the northeastern side of the Anderson valley. While this is the cooler end of the valley, the vineyard is protected on two sides. Thus the site is warmer than most of its neighbors.

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

Candied apple, pomegranate, blackberry cane, moss, damp earth and even a hint of truffle, are all present on the aromas. The tannic structure of Savoy is larger than many of the other wines in 2020 and will need some time to round out. Having said that, the combination of vibrant acidity and very bright fruit tones balance the tannin beautifully and is very seductive. This was the only 2020 fermented with a significant percentage of whole clusters: Fifty two percent.

APPELLATION

Anderson Valley

SOILS

Pinole and Boont loams over Franciscan shale

FARMING

Farmed using organic materials, not certified

VINE AGE

Planted in 1991, 1992, 1993

ACREAGE

5 acres of Chardonnay, 38 acres of Pinot Noir. Littorai receives 4.37 acres of Pinot Noir

YIELD

1.9 tons per acre in 2020

CLONES

Dijon 114, 115, 667, 777, Calera and Pommard

WHOLE CLUSTER

52% in 2020

BARREL AGEING

16 months French Oak, 25% new

PRODUCTION

358 cases

ALCOHOL

12.3% abv

