



## 2021 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.

### 2021 Vintage Information

The 2021 vintage Pinot Noirs are among the most concentrated and structured wines we have ever produced. They are on the riper end of the spectrum of the Littorai style. The concentration is not due to small berry size or a very low yields, neither of which were true in 2021. Fermentations and total tank times were longer than usual, so that contributed. The total number of punch downs was greater than average simply because the time in tank was longer, so that would be a factor. But for me the answer is simple, that is the style of the vintage. We did not intentionally aim for this result. This is a vintage with ample youthful fruit expression and relatively high pHs (lower acidity) and while the tannins are firm, they are not massive. The resulting wines are seductive and should please a wide range of palates. A few of the wines tilt more to the hedonistic side of the spectrum while others are more sober and reserved.

### Tasting Notes

Plush, sweet aromas of blackberry, candied apple and mulberry blend with savory notes of oakbark, cinnamon and cooking herbs. Surprisingly lush palate with rich chocolatey tannins, which integrate beautifully into the wine. The good acidity contributes to a very long, fine and understated, gorgeous texture. A hedonistic version of Cerise.

#### 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

22%

#### BARREL AGEING

16 months French Oak, 25% new

#### YIELD

1.93 tons

#### PRODUCTION

422 cases

#### ALCOHOL

13.0% abv

