

# Littorai

## 2021 Hirsch 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

Hirsch vineyard comprises a series of ridgetops, three miles from the ocean, northwest of the seaside town of Jenner. Rainfall is abundant between October and April, with the summer dry and desert-like. The climate can be erratic and unpredictable, with wide annual swings in moisture, temperature, storms, and wind. Elevation ranges from 1200 to 1550 feet. This is San Andreas Fault territory, resulting in varied and complex soils.

### 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

Plum, marzipan, mocha, mineral, and spice tones. Fans of Hirsch Vineyard will not be surprised to learn that this one of the most structured wines of the vintage. There is lovely underlying acidity, but the tannin backbone dominates the wine for now. A great bottle in the making but this is one for the cellar.

#### APPELLATION

Sonoma Coast

#### SOILS

Hugo very gravelly loam and Hugo-Josephine complex

#### FARMING

Farmed using organic materials and biodynamic methods, not certified

#### VINE AGE

Planted in 1995

#### ACREAGE

4 acres of Chardonnay, 68 acres of Pinot Noir. Littorai receives 2.5 acres of Pinot Noir.

#### CLONES

Dijon 114,777, Pommard and Swann

#### WHOLE CLUSTER

32%

#### YIELD

3.14 tons per acre

#### BARREL AGEING

16 months French Oak, 25% new

#### PRODUCTION

373 cases

#### ALCOHOL

13.6% abv

