

# Littorai

## 2021 Mays Canyon Sonoma Coast Chardonnay

### 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

Mays Canyon is home to the Porter Bass Estate. At 200-400 feet elevation, this site is somewhat unique as it is surrounded by the Russian River on three sides! Skirted by redwood trees, they help keep to form a protective barrier that warms the climate of the vineyard. The Hugo gravelly loam soils also help to capture and retain the heat of the day, offering the vines additional warmth as the fog begins to roll in. Re-planted in 1999, this site has been a vineyard since the late 1800s!

### Vintage Information

Chardonnay yields were much improved compared with 2020. The harvest occurred over an unusually long period, with the pick at Charles Heintz and part of Mays Canyon around the 10th of September but the rest all occurring during the fourth week of September. Brix (sugar level) at harvest were in the typical range for Littorai but like the 2020s, the 2021s were not as high in acidity as the 2018s and 2019s. Malolactic and primary fermentations were very slow in 2021 with Thieriot finishing primary and malolactic only in November of 2022. Charles Heintz was barely ahead of it, finishing in October. Hence it took quite a bit of time for the vintage character to come clearly into focus. The 2021s are floral wines with very good richness, like their 2020 brethren, and excellent freshness. The initial palate impression is of richness but this yields to a muscle core of acidity. They have more than sufficient concentration for aging, but like 2020 have excellent charm for those who prefer to drink Chardonnay very young. 2021 and 2020 pair at the richer end of the Littorai style.

### Tasting Notes

Aromas of Granny Smith apple, lemon verbena and oyster shell, Mays Canyon is a sneaky Chardonnay. As always, the palate is gracious and soft on entry, but this quickly transitions to excellent focus with lots of fruit intensity and a slightly pithy quality. The acidity kicks in late and coats the mouth. This bottling will show very well immediately and should age very well also.

#### APPELLATION

Sonoma Coast

#### SOILS

Hugo gravelly loam underlain by weathered fine-grained sandstone and shale

#### FARMING

Farmed using certified organic materials and biodynamic methods

#### VINE AGE

Planted in 1983, been a vineyard since late 1800s

#### ACREAGE

8 acres of Chardonnay total, Littorai receives 3.3 acres

#### CLONES

Dijon 95, pre-heat treatment Wente, Hyde and Dutton selections

#### BARREL AGEING

11 months French Oak, 25% new; 5 months stainless steel before bottling

#### YIELDS

1.09 tons/acre in 2021

#### PRODUCTION

177 cases

#### ALCOHOL

13.1% abv

