



## 2021 Mays Canyon Sonoma Coast 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

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!

### 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.

### Tasting Notes

Great aromatic complexity: cocoa powder, violets, forest floor, sweet spices, Bing cherry. Lovely richness, very smooth, integrated tannin, lots of power and a lovely, salivating finish. In most vintages this wine usually takes a few years to come around. This is a Mays bottling which is surprisingly drinkable already and fits the hedonistic end of the spectrum.

#### 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 1999, this site has been a vineyard since the late 1800s

#### ACREAGE

3.5 acres of Zinfandel, 6 acres of Pinot Noir of which Littorai receives 2.5 acres

#### YIELD

1.14 tons per acre in 2021

#### CLONES

Dijon 777, Swann and 3 proprietary clones

#### WHOLE CLUSTER

37% in 2021

#### BARREL AGEING

16 months French Oak, 25% new

#### PRODUCTION

188 cases

#### ALCOHOL

14.1% abv

