

Littorai

2021 Roman 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

Roman is a beautiful hilltop vineyard situated at 1150 feet elevation in the middle of Anderson Valley. It is northwest of the town of Philo. While it sits just above the fog line, the strong coastal winds have a great effect on this vineyard. The sandstone soils stress the vines and make for amazingly structured and perfumed 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

Orange peel, earthy and savory notes, graphite, cranberries and roses align with a whole cluster note. Chewy, significant tannin presence here to go with the fresh acidity. This bottle will require patience, but will richly reward those who know how to exercise theirs...

APPELLATION
Anderson Valley

SOILS
Boont loam over
Sandstone

FARMING
Farmed using organic
materials and biodynamic
methods, not certified

VINE AGE
Planted in 1999

ACREAGE
1.8 acres total of Pinot
Noir farmed by Littorai

YIELD
2.34 tons per acre

CLONES
Dijon 114 and 667 and a
proprietary clone

WHOLE CLUSTER
35%

BARREL AGEING
16 months French Oak,
25% new

PRODUCTION
184 cases

ALCOHOL
13.2% abv

