



2021 Savoy 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

What attracted Littorai to this area of Savoy is an old world notion that the best parcels within a vineyard lie at the toe of the slope. Adding to that is the complexity of clones within the Savoy vineyard. Our rows of Savoy are located at the base of the hills on the northeastern side of the Anderson valley. While this is the cooler end of the valley, the vineyard is protected on two sides. Thus the site is warmer than most of its neighbors.

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

2021 yielded a very small crop at Savoy. The rockiest half acre of our blocks suffered greatly in the drought, so we declassified its production into the Les Larmes bottling. The severe selection has resulted in a wine with very fresh, vibrant, sexy aromas of cassis, Santa Rosa plum, blueberry, pepper, and iron. It shares the firm tannins of Wendling and a wonderful persistence. Could become one of the greatest bottlings of Savoy we have produced.

APPELLATION

Anderson Valley

SOILS

Pinole and Boont loams over Franciscan shale

FARMING

Farmed using organic materials, not certified

VINE AGE

Planted in 1991, 1992, 1993

ACREAGE

5 acres of Chardonnay, 38 acres of Pinot Noir. Littorai receives 4.37 acres of Pinot Noir

YIELD

1.84 tons per acre

CLONES

Dijon 114, 115, 667, 777, Calera and Pommard

WHOLE CLUSTER

34%

BARREL AGEING

16 months French Oak, 25% new

PRODUCTION

348 cases

ALCOHOL

13.4% abv

