

# Littorai

## 2021 B.A. Thieriot 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

Thieriot Vineyard is located southwest of the town of Occidental, overlooking Bodega at an elevation of 900’. It is protected from the northwest winds and fog by a ridge to the north. The soil of the Chardonnay block is Gold Ridge loam and the Pinot is a combination of Gold Ridge and Josephine series. Littorai has a long term lease on this site, meaning that we farm it as if an estate vineyard. We have farmed it for over a decade now. Both the Pinot Noir and Chardonnay are farmed using biodynamic methods but are not certified.

### 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

Confectionary, blackberry, red fruits, green tea, Asian spices. The attack on the palate is delightfully rich, with fresh acidity adding concentration and depth. The wine shows wonderful complexity and unfurls slowly in the mouth. There are chewy, whole cluster style tannins, but the accompanying richness lends a velvet-like quality to the wine.

#### APPELLATION

Sonoma Coast

#### SOILS

Gold Ridge loam over sandstone & Josephine series

#### FARMING

Farmed using organic materials and biodynamic methods, not certified

#### VINE AGE

Planted in 1991 and 1994

#### CLONES

Swann, Pommard, Dijon 114 & 777, Calera and a proprietary clone

#### WHOLE CLUSTER

0%

#### YIELD

1.83 tons per acre

#### BARREL AGEING

16 months French Oak, 25% new

#### PRODUCTION

204 cases

#### ALCOHOL

14.1% abv

