

Littorai,

`Hirsch Vineyard` Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir 2019

Sonoma County, California, USA

Littorai



PRODUCER

Husband and wife team Ted and Heidi Lemon are behind this family-run winery, established in 1993. Ted began his career in Burgundy and has worked for some of the region's top estates including Domaine Guy Roulot in Meursault where he was winemaker and vineyard manager, the first American to ever hold such a position in Burgundy! Heidi has similarly worked for some of California's top producers including Robert Long Vineyards and Stag's Leap Wine Cellars. Ted and Heidi's mission with Littorai was to find the best spot to grow Pinot Noir and Chardonnay along the littoral (coastal) zones of the U.S.A. They searched the west coast before finally finding their top spot in the 'true' north of California - the coastal mountains of Sonoma and Mendocino Counties. All the vineyards have been farmed biodynamically since 2001 and there is minimal intervention in the winemaking.

VINEYARDS

Littorai is the longest-standing buyer of fruit from the Hirsch vineyard and is also responsible for converting the site to biodynamic farming. The site is a series of ridged hilltops, which run inland from the Pacific Ocean at 365 to 472 metres above sea level. The vines are planted on gravelly loam and Hugo Josephine complex soils.

VINTAGE

The 2019 season started with a very challenging weather in the spring, through careful vineyard work during the season and the good fortune of little late-season fog, botrytis was not a great concern. Littorai were able to sort out and remove any mildew affected clusters directly in the vineyard, a good indicator that the harvest was not compressed. The conditions in 2019 led to more floral, perfumed, and delicate Pinot Noirs than previous vintages. Cluster and berry size varied from small to large depending on clone and site, overall malic acid was lower than 2018 with final pHs ranging from low (Thieriot) to moderate (Charles Heintz).

VINIFICATION

The fruit from the Hirsch vineyard was carefully hand selected before pressing. After pressing, the must underwent fermentation at controlled temperatures with 25-40% of grapes kept whole bunch. The wine then spent 16 months in 25% new French oak barrels before bottling, with no fining or filtration.

TASTING NOTES

This wine has great aromatic complexity with aromas of dried flowers, red roses, brandied cherry, red apple, black tea, redwood, and pine needle. It has fine grained, substantial tannin, but is balanced by mouth-coating acidity and hidden richness which provide more charm now.

Grape Varieties	100% Pinot Noir
Winemaker	Ted Lemon
Closure	Natural Cork
ABV	12.5%
Residual Sugar	0.1g/L
Acidity	5.4g/L
Wine pH	3.63
Notes	Vegetarian, Practising Biodynamic, Certified Organic, Vegan