

Littorai,

'The Haven Vineyard' Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir 2019

Sonoma County, California, USA

Littorai



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	3.56
Bottle Sizes	75cl, 150cl
Notes	Vegetarian, Practising Biodynamic, Practising Organic, Vegan

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

The Haven is Littorai's original estate vineyard and where they first started farming biodynamically. Ted considers this one of his Grand Cru vineyards. Planted in 2001, the site is a microcosm of the diversity of soils within the Sonoma Coast, containing greenstone, sandstone and shale. At 366 metres above sea level and located between Occidental and the Pacific Ocean, this is a late ripening, cool site.

VINTAGE

The crop in 2019 was moderately large and required some crop load reduction. Malic acid numbers were much lower in 2019 compared to the high malics of 2018. Final alcohols on the wines were slightly less than in 2018, with only a single bottled wine over 13%. While ethanol levels may not matter to some, Littorai's ambition is to produce complex, physiologically ripe wines at modest

alcohol levels as this has health benefits and creates wines which are more suitable as accompaniment to fine foods.

While the 2018 wines are structured and demand patience in the cellar, the 2019s are more floral, perfumed and delicate. This is not to say that they lack concentration or will not age and improve as much in the cellar as the 2018s. They are simply a different expression of Pinot Noir and are less tannic than the 2018s at a similar age

VINIFICATION

The fruit was hand harvested at night, so the grapes arrived cool before being destemmed and put into fermenters with 43% kept whole bunch. The fermenters naturally rose in temperature to begin fermentation using indigenous yeasts. The wines were pressed once dry and transferred to French oak barrels (25% new). The wine remained in barrel for 16 months on its malolactic and primary lees prior to bottling, with no fining or filtration.

TASTING NOTES

Aromas of rhubarb, pomegranate, cherry and alpine strawberry. There are also notes of fruit compote, violets and forest floor. This wine is beautifully balanced between elegant, silky tannins and slow building acidity which carries it into a very long finish.