

Littorai,

**`B.A. Thieriot Vineyard` Sonoma Coast Chardonnay 2021**

**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

Ted has a long-term lease on the B.A. Thieriot Vineyard, which is located west of the town of Occidental on a cool, south-facing slope. The vines were planted in 1996 on Gold Ridge loam over sandstone at 275 metres above sea level. The site is protected from the northwest winds and fog by a ridge to the north, yet its altitude and proximity to the coast result in a characteristic tension and freshness. It is low-yielding and dry-farmed under biodynamic and organic principles.

## VINTAGE

Chardonnay yields were much improved compared to 2020. The 2021 vintage was the third drought year in a row in California. However, the precipitation that did occur was well spread out across the growing season. In mid-August water stress became more widespread but careful vineyard management allowed for yields to remain very high. Harvest occurred over an unusually long period. The 2021 Chardonnays are distinctly floral with an exceptional richness.

## VINIFICATION

The fruit was whole bunch pressed, and immediately run into barrels for malolactic fermentation. Once malolactic fermentation was complete, the wine was aged in 25% new French oak barrels for a period of 11 months. The wine was then moved into stainless steel tanks where it remained for five months prior to bottling.

## TASTING NOTES

This wine has a distinct waxiness. Notes of wet stone and truffle and black pepper shine through. This wine is on the richer end, particularly for this site, but with a great acidity that drives the long finish.

Grape Varieties	<b>100% Chardonnay</b>
Winemaker	<b>Ted Lemon</b>
Closure	<b>Natural Cork</b>
ABV	<b>13.5%</b>
Residual Sugar	<b>0.1g/L</b>
Acidity	<b>6.7g/L</b>
Wine pH	<b>3.2</b>
Bottle Sizes	<b>75cl, 150cl</b>
Notes	<b>Vegetarian, Practising Biodynamic, Practising Organic, Vegan</b>

LIBERTY WINES