

Littorai

Immediately after fermentation, the 2009 vintage Pinots seemed soft and voluptuous. It was fascinating to watch them age in barrel as they picked up significant weight and structure. As a group, they possess intense, floral aromatics and are precise and fine on the palate. Many of these wines have long term aging potential. Cerise, Savoy and Mays Canyon all displayed excellent stem maturity so we retained 20-25% whole clusters at these sites. The remainder of the sites received 0-5% whole clusters. Fermentation times were typical for Littorai, between 14 and 25 days. Malolactic completion dates ranged widely from March 2010 all the way until October 2010. This is a beautiful set of wines from the exceptional 2009 vintage.



Savoy Vineyard, Anderson Valley Pinot Noir (171 cases produced)

This wine opens with a very feminine, floral nose. Rose petal, lavender, red apple, black licorice. Then notes of cough drop, horehound and fennel appear. It displays a soft, supple entry and great sweetness on the mid palate. The tannins slowly build on finish. Finishes powerfully dry. Great tail. This wine is all about the palate right now.

CLT147 Littorai Pinot Noir Savoy, Anderson Valley 2009 (12/750) \$540 Net

Cerise Vineyard Anderson Valley Pinot Noir (546 cases produced)

Cerise has a more decadent nose right now than Savoy. It comes across as an almost exact opposite: it is all about the aromas as the palate is quite backward. The aromas are earthier than Savoy with mineral notes, dried pipe tobacco, faded rose blossom, black pepper juniper berry, pine, and cranberry. Great explosion in mouth: dense firm tannins in a rather austere style for now, yet great sweetness and acidity lie hidden behind the tannins. May be the most structured of the 2009s.

CLT148 Littorai Pinot Noir Cerise, Anderson Valley 2009 (12/750) \$599 Net

Hirsch Vineyard Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir (442 cases produced)

Sarsaparilla, root beer, juniper berry, black pepper, blueberry, cardamom, herbes de Provence. Dark, rich, complex fruits. Impressive wine: firm chewy tannin, but not aggressive. Great acid. The tannins need some time to resolve here as they do in Cerise and Thieriot. Powerful finish. Lovers of Hirsch will not be disappointed. Years of life ahead.

CLT149 Littorai Pinot Noir Hirsch, Sonoma Coast 2009 (12/750) \$599 Net

Mays Canyon Russian River Pinot Noir (171 cases produced)

Rich, lactic, candied, with an underpinning of green tobacco, licorice, bitter chocolate, anise and violets. Wonderfully complex. Full, rich, dense wine with mouth coating tannin. Recent vintages of this wine have more mid palate richness than the early vintages. We suspect that this is because the vineyard is maturing. Long powerful, slightly alcoholic finish with great acidity. Another star.

CLT150 Littorai Pinot Noir Mays Canyon, RRV 2009 (12/750) \$599 Net

The Pivot Vineyard, Estate Bottled Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir (288 cases produced)

Spices, pomegranate, cranberry, red fruits, blueberry, carnations, floral tones, grilled meats. Dry, slightly angular style with firm tannic structure which is carried nicely by the mid-palate richness and fruit tones.

CLT151 Littorai Pinot Noir The Pivot, Sonoma Coast 2009 (12/750) \$599 Net

The Haven, Sonoma Coast Pinot Noir (252 cases produced)

Espresso, mocha, cacao, raspberries, lavender, hint green tobacco leaf, redwood, blackberry, mincemeat. Firm slightly angular palate with good acidity. Dry style. Lovely length and harmony. As is often the case, this wine is less expressive today than some of its brothers but there is no doubt that this is full of potential.

CLT152 Littorai Pinot Noir, The Haven, Sonoma Coast 2009 (12/750) \$659 Net