

LA FOLLETTE

Year Founded: 2010

Region: Mendocino, Sonoma, California

Owners: Pete & Terri Kight

Winemaker: Hugh Chappelle

Fun Fact: Los Primeros - meaning 'the first' -honors the early winegrowing pioneers in California who planted vines along the coast. Today, those same areas, inland from the Pacific Ocean, produce California's most sought after Chardonnay and Pinot Noir grapes.

Fun Fact 2: Winemaker Greg La Follette is originally from Stillwater!

-Organic -

La Follette is a boutique Sonoma County winery intensely focused on crafting wines that offer benchmark expression of vineyard site and appellation. Led by winemaker Greg La Follette, the portfolio of small lot Chardonnay and Pinot Noir releases offer a sensory tour of terroir of some of the most expressive and interesting vineyards in Sonoma and Mendocino County. La Follette fully embraces the concept of terroir - that each vineyard site has a unique expression that is showcased through the wines. Grapes from each location gain the full benefit of the microclimate, clonal selection, constant eye of the vineyard manager knowing when it is best to pick each row, and so on. In producing the most distinctive, site-driven Chardonnays and Pinot Noirs, La Follette partners with family-owned vineyards. We work closely together to ensure the farming is done to our viticultural directives based on decades of experience and celebrates the distinct nature of their location. The illustration on our label was found in a rare first-edition French viticulture manual published in 1847. Written by a member of the Agrarian Committee at Metz, the book covered the latest methods of winegrowing while also championing traditional techniques. The mix of old and new is a viewpoint that resonates with our winemaking team.



2021/2022 La Follette 'Los Primeros' Chardonnay, Sonoma County



Sonoma County is emerging as a top spot for Chardonnays to pair with food. With a much larger Diurnal Swing than our neighbors to the East, Sonoma Chardonnays tend to be more "European" in style with racy acid and more stone fruit flavors like white peach and apricot. This wine is a blend of both declassified barrels from some of our top single vineyard sites along with contracted sources picked by the winemaking team for specific flavor profiles. Hand-picked at night to maintain fruit quality. Gently whole cluster pressed. Fermented cool to maintain diverse aromatic characteristics. Partial malolactic fermentation to enhance complexity. Aged 10 months in small 60-gallon new and neutral French oak.

91 Points – '22 Wine Spectator - *"A hint of salted butterscotch adds an appealingly rich edge to the ripe peach, baked apple and dried apricot flavors in this complex version, which offers bright citrus accents and vibrant acidity, with hints of lemon blossoms on the finish."*

91 Points – '21 Wine Enthusiast – *"Fruity and refreshing, this well-balanced and medium-bodied wine offers mouth filling Golden apple and Bosc pear flavors backed by lively acidity and mild notes of vanilla and butter."*

91 Points – '21 James Suckling

2021 La Follette 'Los Primeros' Pinot Noir, Sonoma County



We blend both declassified barrels from some of our top single vineyard wines along with contracted sources picked by the winemaking team for specific aroma and flavor profiles. Layered into this are blending components from a handful of truly elite Sonoma Coast producers. Hand-picked, and hand-sorted. Gently destemmed and transferred to fermentation tanks without pumping. 3-6 days 'cool' soak before fermentation was allowed to begin. Manual punching down 1-3x per day, as needed, to distribute heat and extract aroma and flavor. Skin contact ranged from 11-16 days. Gently basket-pressed. Malolactic fermentation in barrels. Aged 10 months in small 60-gallon French oak. Barrels were long air-dried for 3+ years, and only medium toasted so as to have as gentle impact on the wine as possible.

92 Points – '20 Wilfred Wong - *"Lovely, enticing, and alive. shines with aromas and flavors of dried leaves, herbs, and wild strawberries. Serve it with grilled wild salmon fillets."*

92 Points – '20 Wine Enthusiast – *"Brilliant red cherries, spearmint, cinnamon and black-tea flavors seem to light up this snappy-textured and expressive wine. Moderate tannins and a medium body give an energized mouthfeel that keeps the spices and fruit notes humming."*