

# 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!

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La Follette is a boutique Sonoma County winery intensely focused on crafting wines that offer benchmark expression of vineyard site and appellation. This 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.



## 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**

## 2023 La Follette 'Los Primeros' Pinot Noir, Sonoma County

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For our 2023 Los Primeros Pinot Noir we blended barrels from some of our top single vineyard wines to accent barrels from our local, long term growing partners. Layered into the blend are components from a handful of truly elite Sonoma Coast sites. Hand-picked, and hand-sorted. Gently destemmed and transferred to fermentation tanks without pumping. 3 day cold soak. Manual punching down 1-3 times per day for optimal aroma and flavor extraction. Malolactic fermentation in barrels. Aged 10 months in small French oak barrels (12% new).

Visually, this wine is Amaranth red. Our Pinot Noir showcases the elevated acidity levels in 2023 and bursts with high energy fruit. Cranberry, pomegranate and hibiscus are the signature aromatics while the palate is vibrant with tart cherry, rose petal, cinnamon and dried herbs.