

# LIOCO

Santa Rosa

www.liocowine.com



Matt Licklider and  
Kevin O'Connor



The Rolling Hills of Carneros



United States of America

CALIFORNIA  
Central & North Coasts

## OVERVIEW

LIOCO is the result of a years-long conversation between Matt Licklider (a seasoned wine import specialist) and Kevin O'Connor (former wine director at Michelin Two-Star Spago-Beverly Hills) about whether California could produce a true "wine of origin." After gathering opinion on the subject from some of the world's great wine producers, they arrived at their conclusion: California can achieve a wine of origin, provided certain protocols are adhered to—both in the vineyard and in the cellar. Inspired by traditional European winegrowing practices, Licklider and Kevin O'Connor seek out vineyard sites with tougher soil, older vines, and some stress-producing aspect (altitude, extreme temperature, poor soil, etc). Then they simply shepherd the grapes from bud to bottle in the least intrusive way possible. This disciplined approach serves to amplify the voice of the vineyard, or the unique flavors and aromas tied inextricably to the soil. The result is a wine could come from one place only. These are wines of origin.

**Varieties:** Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Carignan, Petite Sirah, Grenache, Mourvèdre

**Average Production:**  
14,000 cases

## VINEYARD/CELLAR PRACTICES

- Hand-harvested fruit from sustainably-farmed vineyard sources.
- Wild yeast fermentations, Manual cap punch-downs, fine lees-aging, all wines are bottled without fining or filtration.
- Oak-aging is eschewed in Chardonnay, and Pinot Noirs are treated to very low-impact barrel-aging.

## WINES

### Chardonnay Sonoma County

Four distinctive-yet-complementary Sonoma County vineyards that share a commitment to sustainable horticulture and strident farming are the fruit sources for this wine. This wine transparently expresses the unique character of the region.

### Chardonnay Carneros

The fruit for this wine is picked earlier than most in the region to accentuate that brisk Carneros acidity, yielding a wine that outshines its appellation with urgent minerality, a brothy dried-herb aura that surrounds a green citrus fruit spine.

### Indica Red Mendocino County

A Roussillon-inspired old-vine red blend (Carignan, Petite Sirah, Mourvèdre) that is as juicy & dynamic as any pleasure-oriented California red. However, behind the rich, vibrant fruit lies a chewy structural density that doesn't immediately shine through.

### Pinot Noir Hirsch Vineyard Sonoma Coast

A sensational wine from a benchmark Pinot Noir vineyard, the dense red currant and cherry essences are the basis for a kaleidoscopic array of aromas and flavors expressed through a cushioned, silken texture.

## ACCOLADES

**Lioco 2009 Chardonnay Sonoma County**—Pungent, deep aromas of pear skin, anise, herbs and chamomile. Round and fleshy but emphatically dry, offering penetrating orchard and pit fruit flavors, building herbacity and a late note of bee pollen. Finishes with good clinging persistence and a dried lemon note. This will be very flexible with food. **89 points**

**Josh Reynolds, International Wine Cellar, #156**

**Lioco 2009 Pinot Noir Hirsch Vineyard**—High-pitched aromas of redcurrant, raspberry & blood orange, with husky floral and herbal notes adding complexity. Darker fruits come up with air and carry onto the palate, which offers bitter cherry and red berry compote flavors and notes of orange pith and star anise. Leaves spice and floral notes behind on the very long, precise, subtly sweet finish. This intense, well-balanced pinot should age gracefully. **93 points**

**Josh Reynolds, International Wine Cellar, #156**



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