

JEB DUNNUCK

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MORLET *Family Vineyards* BURGUNDY & RHÔNE VARIETALS

2018 'COUP DE CŒUR' CHARDONNAY

100 POINTS

The flagship 2018 'Coup de Cœur' is a tiny barrel selection put together by winemaker Luc Morlet. With just 175 cases produced, its deeper golden hue is followed by a powerful, full-bodied Chardonnay delivering killer notes of caramelized stone fruits, apricots, toasty oak, honeysuckle, and baking spices. With bright acidity, beautiful depth of fruit, and stunning balance, it's a blockbuster styled effort that stays pure, elegant, and weightless. It needs plenty of air if drinking any time soon, and as with all of these wines from Morlet, I was able to follow this for multiple days and it only improved with air. It will ideally be given a year or two of bottle age and is going to evolve for over a decade.

2018 'MA PRINCESSE' CHARDONNAY

100 POINTS

The 2018 'Ma Princesse' comes from one of the greatest sites for Chardonnay in California, the Ritchie Vineyard in the Russian River Valley. Coming all from Old Wente Chardonnay (40- to 50-year-old vines) and fermented and aged in French oak, it has stunning notes of caramelized peach and lemon, toasted bread, vanilla, and white flowers that develop beautifully with time in the glass. Deep, full-bodied, and opulent on the palate, it carries a racy spine of acidity, beautiful balance, and a great, great finish. Picking a favorite from these 2018 Chardonnays from Morlet is just about impossible, but this is incredible juice that tops out on my scale. I followed this bottle for multiple days and it only improved with air. Enjoy this heavenly Chardonnay any time over the coming decade or more.

2018 'MA DOUCE' CHARDONNAY

99 POINTS

The 2018 'Ma Douce' (which is named after winemaker Luc Morlet's wife) shows a more racy, focused style compared to the 'Coup de Cœur' and has gorgeous notes of caramelized lemon, orange blossom, white flowers, spice, and toasted bread. Coming from the Fort Ross-Seaview region of the Sonoma Coast, it has a touch of marine-like salinity, full-bodied richness, flawless balance, and a monster of a finish. It's another riveting Chardonnay from Morlet that will evolve for 8-10+ years.

2018 'JOLI CŒUR' PINOT NOIR

98+ POINTS

Coming from shallow soils in the Fort Ross-Seaview appellation, the 2018 'Joli Cœur' is another beautiful wine. Mulled raspberries, black cherries, violets, game, and exotic spice notes all emerge from the glass, and it's a wonderfully complex, nuanced 2018 that has flawless balance, a beautiful spine of acidity, and a great finish. As with all of Luc's wines, it has terrific richness and depth while staying weightless and elegant. It's drinking beautifully today yet should easily evolve for 10-12 years in cold cellars. It's a stunning Pinot Noir from this house.

2018 'EN FAMILLE' PINOT NOIR

96 POINTS

The 2018 'En Famille' is the most fresh, lively Pinot Noir in the lineup and offers a more medium to full-bodied, vibrant style to go with notes of spiced mulberries, black cherries, smoked earth, graphite, sappy flowers, and forest, piney nuances. With terrific balance solid mid-palate depth, and both building tannins and acidity, it needs 2-3 years of bottle age and will drink well for a decade. While the other two Pinot Noirs are fermented in a mix of puncheons and stainless steel, the 'En Famille' is fermented all in puncheons.

2018 'CÔTEAUX NOBLES' PINOT NOIR

98 POINTS

Coming from the Fort Ross-Seaview AVA (northern Sonoma Coast), the 2018 'Côteaux Nobles' has a ripe, opulent bouquet of black raspberries, orange blossom, baking spices, white chocolate, and candied violets. Gorgeous on the palate as well, this full-bodied Pinot Noir has a rounded, opulent texture that carries bright acidity, ripe tannins, and a distinct salty minerality and subtle marine-like influence. It's already drinking spectacularly well yet will cruise for a decade in cold cellars. It's the finest vintage of this cuvée I've tasted.

2018 'BOUQUET GARNI' SYRAH

97 POINTS

From the cooler Bennett Valley and all Syrah aged 16 months in Burgundy barrels, the 2018 'Bouquet Garni' reminds me a top Hermitage from a ripe vintage. A huge nose of blackcurrants, smoked meats, dried flowers, new leather, and spice all flow to a full-bodied Syrah that offers ripe, present tannins, a great core of fruit, and the acidity and balance to evolve for 10-15 years.

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