

JEB DUNNUCK

“With classic Cheval Blanc-like aromas and flavors... and classic Cabernet Franc elegance and purity... the 2017 ‘Force de la Nature’ ranks with the top wines in the vintage.” - August 2020

MORLET *Family Vineyards* BORDEAUX VARIETALS

2018 '**LA PROPORTION DORÉE**' WHITE BORDEAUX-STYLE BLEND **100 POINTS**

The flagship Bordeaux white, the 2018 ‘La Proportion Dorée’ is a magical elixir based on Sémillon, Sauvignon Blanc, and a splash of Muscadelle that spent 16 months all in used French oak. Awesome notes of caramelized lime, honeyed nectarines, orange blossom, spice, and exotic flowers all soar from the glass, and it tastes like a top vintage of La Mission Haut-Brion Blanc on steroids. Despite all its richness and size, it's elegant, seamless, and offers intensity with no sensation of weight or heaviness. I have no idea how long it will keep, but I've no doubt it has a solid decade of longevity ahead of it. However, there's no harm in drinking bottles today. Hats off to winemaker Luc Morlet for fashioning one of the greatest white Bordeaux blends in California!

2017 '**PASSIONNÉMENT**' CABERNET SAUVIGNON **98 POINTS**

While the 2017 ‘Passionnément’ doesn't match the magical 2016, it's nevertheless a gorgeous wine that will stand up to anything in the vintage and is a heavenly wine. Loads of blackcurrants, cassis, damp earth, chocolate, and green tobacco dominate the bouquet of this powerful, full-bodied, opulent wine, which offers more decadence and sweet fruit than almost every other 2017 out there. With beautiful depth of fruit, ripe, silky tannins, and a blockbuster of a finish, it needs a year or three of bottle age and will evolve for two decades or more. The ‘Passionnément’ is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon and is always a selection across the single vineyards.

2017 '**FORCE DE LA NATURE**' CABERNET FRANC **97 POINTS**

Composed of 100% Cabernet Franc from To Kalon, the 2017 ‘Force de la Nature’ is showing beautifully, with classic Cheval Blanc-like red and black currants, cedarwood, tobacco, and floral aromas and flavors. It displays more chocolate and toasty oak on the palate and is medium to full-bodied, with classic Cabernet Franc elegance and purity, great tannins (especially for a 2017), and a great finish. It ranks with the top wines in the vintage and will evolve for 20+ years.

2017 '**MORLET ESTATE**' CABERNET SAUVIGNON **96+ POINTS**

The 2017 ‘Morlet Estate’ comes from the Morlets' estate vineyard (6 acres located just around the estate) and is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. It's another backward, youthful wine that needs bottle age yet offers stunning purity in its cassis and blackberry fruits as well as notes of rocky minerality, spice box, white flowers, graphite, and lead pencil. As with many of Luc's 2017s, there's a Bordeaux vibe in its aromas and tannin profile, and this full-bodied Cabernet has nicely integrated acidity, flawless balance, and enough structure to warrant a solid 4-5 years or more of bottle age. It should be one of the longer-lived wines in the lineup. This beauty isn't far off the 2016!

2017 '**CŒUR DE VALLÉE**' CABERNET SAUVIGNON **96 POINTS**

Lots of smoky black fruits, graphite, and mineral notes emerge from the 2017 ‘Cœur de Vallée’ which comes from a mix of To Kalon and the ‘Cœur de Vallée’ Vineyard and is 96% Cabernet Sauvignon and 4% Cabernet Franc. It shows the more plush style of To Kalon and is one of the more approachable Cabernets in the lineup, offering full-bodied richness, beautiful mid-palate depth, and a plush, sexy mouthfeel. It still has enough underlying tannins to warrant a few years of bottle age, but it's going to drink beautifully for a solid two decades.

2017 '**MON CHEVALIER**' CABERNET SAUVIGNON **95 POINTS**

The 2017 ‘Mon Chevalier’ comes from Knights Valley and is brought up in puncheons. It's another beautiful, Bordeaux-like wine from Morlet that has lots of cassis and red plum fruits as well as cedarwood, graphite, crushed rocks, and violet aromas and flavor. Young and relatively unevolved, it has juicy acidity, plenty of mid-palate depth, sweet fruit, and a beautiful finish. Give bottles a good 3-4 years and it should keep for 20-25 years in cold cellars.