

# JEB DUNNUCK

I loved the latest releases from Luc Morlet and family, and they show a sensational mix of classic, balanced, even old-school, characters mixed with killer California fruit. As a whole, the 2014s show more elegance and complexity, with the 2015s possessing more power and richness. These are rockstar wines. – June 2018

## MORLET *Family Vineyards* BORDEAUX VARIETALS

### 2015 '**FORCE DE LA NATURE**' CABERNET FRANC **100 POINTS**

Cut from the same cloth as the 2014, yet more powerful and concentrated as well as unevolved, the 2015 Force de la Nature is one of the finest expressions of Cabernet Franc out there. Reminding me of a young 1998 Cheval Blanc with its massive core of dark fruits, chocolate, and spring flower notes, this beauty hits the palate with full body, ultra-fine tannin, a huge mid-palate, and a seamless, weightless texture that keeps you coming back to the glass. It's an incredible wine from this great, great estate.

### 2015 '**PASSIONNÉMENT**' CABERNET SAUVIGNON **99 POINTS**

Flirting with perfection, the 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Passionnément has a Léoville Las Case-like regalness in its crème de cassis, graphite, camphor, charcoal, and gravelly minerality. Full-bodied, incredibly concentrated, yet pure, structured, and on point, this sensational Cabernet Sauvignon needs 2-3 years of bottle age and will cruise for 2+ decades in cold cellars.

### 2015 '**MON CHEVALIER**' CABERNET SAUVIGNON **98 POINTS**

The 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Mon Chevalier, which includes no Merlot (it's 90% Cabernet Sauvignon, 6% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Malbec and Petit Verdot) is a black fruited, powerful 2015 that just fills the mouth with fruit. Blueberries, plums, violets, chocolate, and savory herb notes all emerge from this full-bodied, big, meaty, licorice-laced effort that, like all of Luc's wines, stays balanced, graceful and pure. Drink it anytime over the coming 25+ years.

### 2015 '**CŒUR DE VALLÉE**' CABERNET SAUVIGNON **97 POINTS**

The 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Cœur de Vallée (95% Cabernet Sauvignon and 5% Cabernet Franc) comes from To Kalon and offers a dense yet also plush, blockbuster style in its huge black, blue, and purple fruits, violets, chocolate, and mineral-like aromas and flavors. As with the 2014, this cuvée is one of the more opulent, sexy wines in the lineup and is classic Napa Valley all the way.

### 2015 '**MORLET ESTATE**' CABERNET SAUVIGNON **96+ POINTS**

More masculine, backward, and austere, with a Chateau Latour-like character, the 2015 Morlet Estate gives up darker fruits, crushed rock, and ample lead pencil-like notions to go with a full-bodied, concentrated, structured feel on the palate. With building tannin and obvious minerality, it's going to handsomely reward patience.

### 2015 '**LES PETITS MORLET**' CABERNET SAUVIGNON **93 POINTS**

Slightly deeper colored than the '14, the 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Les Petits Morlet offers more black fruits, graphite, scorched earth, and tobacco. It's another full-bodied yet finesse-driven wine from this estate that has good acidity, ripe tannin, and plenty of class. As with the 2014, it will keep for over a decade.

2016 **'LA PROPORTION DORÉE'** WHITE BORDEAUX-STYLE BLEND **97 POINTS**

Reminding me of a great vintage of La Mission Haut Brion, the 2016 La Proportion Dorée (65% Sémillon, 33% Sauvignon Blanc and 2% Muscadelle) boasts phenomenal notes of citrus, tangerines, flower oil, and candied lemons. It's deep, rich, and concentrated, yet has vibrant acidity as well as purity. It's unquestionably one of the best white Bordeaux blends coming out of California.

2014 **'FORCE DE LA NATURE'** CABERNET FRANC **98 POINTS**

Coming all from clone 1 Cabernet Franc in the To Kalon Vineyard, the 2014 Force de la Nature is an incredibly singular, exotic, complex 2014 that has loads of red and blue fruits, exotic flowers, incense, and blood orange-like aromas and flavors. About as elegant and seamless as they come, with ultra-fine tannin and no hard edges, it's an incredible expression of Cabernet Franc from Napa Valley.

2014 **'PASSIONNÉMENT'** CABERNET SAUVIGNON **98 POINTS**

The 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Passionnément comes from a site in Oakville (there's a tiny portion from St. Helena) and is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. It offers a ripe, sweetly fruited, elegant, yet also powerful style that just glides over the palate with no sense of heaviness or coarseness. Revealing notes of crème de cassis, crushed flowers, graphite, and spice, this cuvée always shines for its seamless, elegant personality, yet it never lacks for density or richness.

2014 **'MON CHEVALIER'** CABERNET SAUVIGNON **97 POINTS**

The 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Mon Chevalier comes from a hillside in Knights Valley and is 86% Cabernet Sauvignon, 8% Cabernet Franc, and the rest Merlot, Malbec, and Petit Verdot. It offers sensational notes of crème de cassis, graphite, camphor, and loamy earth characteristics, full body, incredible elegance and purity, and a building sense of minerality on the finish. It's both powerful and elegant, and already impossible to resist.

2014 **'CŒUR DE VALLÉE'** CABERNET SAUVIGNON **97 POINTS**

From a valley floor site beside To Kalon, the 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Cœur de Vallée (76% Cabernet Sauvignon and 24% Cabernet Franc) boasts an incredibly sexy, full-bodied, thrillingly textured profile as well as to-die-for notes of blueberries, black cherries, dried herbs, and flowers. This powerful, blockbuster-styled beauty checks in near the top of the vintage, and while already drinking beautifully, it will keep for 15-20 years.

2014 **'MORLET ESTATE'** CABERNET SAUVIGNON **98 POINTS**

The 2014 Morlet Estate comes from the western foothills just north of St. Helena and is 99% Cabernet Sauvignon. It has a Pauillac-like austerity as well as awesome notes of black fruits, graphite, lead pencil shavings and loamy soils. Fresh, focused, full-bodied and powerful, this classic, structured Cabernet Sauvignon needs 2-4 years of bottle age but will have 20-25 years of overall longevity.

2014 **'LES PETITS MORLET'** CABERNET SAUVIGNON **93 POINTS**

The entry-level Bordeaux cuvée is the 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Les Petits Morlet, which is 75% Cabernet Sauvignon and the balance Malbec, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot in 2014. This cuvée gets younger vine fruit as well as the fruit that didn't make the cut for the upper cuvées, so the blend changes every year. The 2014 is a beautiful wine in its own right and worth your time and money. Crème de cassis, chocolate, and violet notes all flow to a full-bodied, deep, impressively concentrated effort that shows both the house elegance and purity, and the charming nature of the 2014 vintage.