

JEB DUNNUCK

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MORLET *Family Vineyards*

2019 'COUP DE CŒUR' CHARDONNAY

100 POINTS

The 2019 ‘Coup de Cœur’ is a top barrel selection by Luc Morlet, and it's a magical Sonoma Coast release that tops out my scale. White flowers, lemon curd, honeyed toast, almond paste, and chalky mineral are just some of the nuances here, and it hits the palate with full-bodied richness, a pure, layered, incredible texture, integrated acidity, and one heck of a long finish. It's slightly richer and more opulent than the other two releases, yet it has this brilliant minerality, a weightless mouthfeel, and does everything right. As with the other 2019s, it needs another 6-12 months of bottle age and will evolve for at least a decade.

2019 'MA PRINCESSE' CHARDONNAY

97+ POINTS

The 2019 ‘Ma Princesse’ comes from the Russian River Valley (Ritchie Vineyard), and it's another terrific Chardonnay. Stunning stone fruits, white flowers, green almond, chalky mineral, and a beautiful sense of salty, mineral, marine-like character all define the bouquet, and it's medium to full-bodied, with a tight, backward mouthfeel and a great finish. It needs at least another year in the cellar, but it's going to deliver the goods through 2033.

2019 'MA DOUCE' CHARDONNAY

97 POINTS

The 2019 ‘Ma Douce’ is a beauty, and it has a slightly richer style than the 2020 while staying pure, focused, and elegant. Gorgeous honeysuckle, white flowers, toasted bread, and stone fruits emerge from the glass, and it's medium to full-bodied and flawlessly balanced, with integrated acidity and a great finish. It's brilliant today with air yet will benefit from a year in bottle and have at least a decade of longevity.

2019 'JOLI CŒUR' PINOT NOIR

97 POINTS

Also brilliant, the 2019 ‘Joli Cœur’ is wonderfully complex, with loads of black raspberry, strawberry, spice box, scorched earth, bouquet garni, and sappy flower-like aromas and flavors. I always find this cuvée to be the most seamless and balanced in the lineup, and the 2019 is no exception, offering medium to full-bodied richness, flawless integration of its tannins, acidity, and fruit, a great mid-palate, and a finish that keeps you coming back to the glass. It needs air to show at its best today and will be even better with a year or two of bottle age and keep through 2031.

2019 'EN FAMILLE' PINOT NOIR

97 POINTS

Just a sensational Pinot Noir, the 2019 ‘En Famille’ comes from the Fort Ross-Seaview appellation in the northern part of Sonoma. It offers a lifted, beautiful perfume of ripe black cherries and black raspberries as well as candied violets, orange blossom, and sappy green flowers. More spice and leather notes emerge with time in the glass, and it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness, soft, supple tannins, good acidity, and a great finish. It brings lots of classic Morlet fruit and pleasure while showing a pretty, nuanced, nicely focused style on the palate. It's gorgeous on all accounts.

2019 'CÔTEAUX NOBLES' PINOT NOIR

95+ POINTS

The 2019 ‘Côteaux Nobles’ comes from the Nobles Ranch Vineyard in the Fort Ross-Seaview region and is another perfumed, complex wine from Morlet. Offering Côte de Nuits-like dark cherry and strawberry fruits as well as forest floor, flowers, orange tea, and spice, it's a rich, full-bodied effort with good acids, a more firm, focused texture, and outstanding length. Give bottles a year or two, and it should drink nicely through 2031.

2019 'LA PROPORTION DORÉE' WHITE BORDEAUX-STYLE BLEND

99 POINTS

A blend of 69% Sémillon, 30% Sauvignon Blanc, and 1% Muscadelle, the just about pure perfection 2019 ‘La Proportion Dorée’ reveals a vivid gold hue as well as a kaleidoscopic array of crushed citrus, honeyed lime, white flowers, green almonds, and crushed stone-like minerality. Beautifully complex, seamless, full-bodied, and concentrated on the palate, it has an incredible texture, bright acidity, and a brilliant finish. Hats off to winemaker Luc Morlet – no one does Bordeaux Blanc in California better.