



The Wine Independent

“Full-bodied, rich and seductive,” the 2019 ‘Morlet Estate’ “has firm, exquisitely ripe, fine-grained tannins and seamless freshness, finishing epically long and with a myriad of perfumed layers.”

- Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW August 2022

MORLET *Family Vineyards*

2019 '**MORLET ESTATE**' CABERNET SAUVIGNON

100 POINTS

The 2019 ‘Morlet Estate’ is deep garnet-purple colored. The nose is quite subdued to begin, offering youthful notes of ripe, juicy blackcurrant, fresh blackberries, and boysenberries with touches of camphor, violets, chocolate box, and cedar. Full-bodied, rich, and seductive, it has firm, exquisitely ripe, fine-grained tannins and seamless freshness, finishing epically long and with a myriad of perfumed layers.

2019 '**FORCE DE LA NATURE**' CABERNET FRANC

99 POINTS

Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2019 ‘Force de la Nature’ needs a lot of swirling to unlock notes of blackberry preserves, mulberries, and candied violets, giving way to blueberry pie, garrigue, pencil lead, coffee bean, and tree bark. The full-bodied palate is taut and powerful, with firm, grainy tannins and seamless freshness, finishing with epic length and loads of mineral sparks. This is made from 100% Cabernet Franc grown on Morlet's ‘Cœur de Vallée’ Vineyard in Oakville.

2019 '**FORCE TRANQUILLE**' CABERNET FRANC

99 POINTS

The 2019 ‘Force Tranquille’ is made from 85% Cabernet Franc & 15% Cabernet Sauvignon. Medium to deep garnet-purple in color, it wafts out of the glass with a beautifully fragrant nose of black cherries, red roses, redcurrant preserves, and blackberry pie, plus suggestions of pencil shavings, wild sage, and damp soil. The full-bodied palate has so much energy, with a lively line lifting the intense red and black fruit layers, supported by super-ripe, fine-grained tannins, finishing long and perfumed. This is the first vintage of this wine, with all the fruit coming from Morlet's ‘Cœur de Vallée’ Vineyard in Oakville. It is a stunning, more elegantly styled expression of Cabernet Franc, compared to the powerful character of the ‘Force de la Nature.’

2019 '**PASSIONNÉMENT**' CABERNET SAUVIGNON

98 POINTS

The 2019 ‘Passionément’ is a barrel selection composed of 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from across all three of the Morlet Family Estate Vineyards, although most of it is from their vineyard in Oakville. Deep purple-black in color, it leaps with wonderfully spicy notes of star anise, cloves, Sichuan pepper, and cinnamon over a core of stewed black plums and warm cassis with a waft of tree bark and crushed rocks. The full-bodied palate is concentrated and opulent, with a gorgeous velvety texture and just enough freshness, finishing long and decadent.

2019 '**CŒUR DE VALLÉE**' CABERNET SAUVIGNON

98 POINTS

The 2019 ‘Cœur de Vallée’ is deep garnet-purple colored. It gallops out with expressive notions of warm cassis, blackberry pie, and blueberry preserves, followed by hints of cedar chest, tilled soil, bay leaves, and iron ore. The full-bodied palate is taut, with a nice combination of bright crunchy black fruits and juicy blue fruits, supported by firm, grainy tannins and seamless freshness, finishing long and mineral-laced. The ‘Cœur de Vallée’ vineyard is in Oakville, just across the road from To Kalon, and is planted entirely to clone 4 with a small amount of Cabernet Franc (clone 1), which does well on the clay-loam soil. The 2019 blend is 94% Cabernet Sauvignon and 6% Cabernet Franc.

2020 'LA PROPORTION DORÉE' WHITE BORDEAUX-STYLE BLEND 98 POINTS

Luc Morlet has 100 Muscadelle vines, planted in 1953, which he co-ferments with the Sauvignon Blanc to produce this Sémillon-based wine. Composed of 69% Sémillon, 30% Sauvignon Blanc, and 1% Muscadelle, the 2020 'La Proportion Dorée' soon reveals notes of ripe peaches, gooseberries, and white currants, with hints of white pepper, coriander seed, and oyster shell. Full-bodied, the palate is wonderfully viscous and racy with intense citrus and apple flavors, finishing long and chalky.

2020 'COUP DE CŒUR' CHARDONNAY 98 POINTS

The 2020 'Coup de Cœur' bursts from the glass with bold notions of ripe, juicy pears, honey-drizzled peaches, and pineapple upside-down cake, plus suggestions of crème brûlée and almond croissant. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is lively and intense, delivering tightly wound citrus and savory layers, leading to a long and chalky finish on this beautiful wine. 'Coup de Cœur' is an uber barrel selection blend of the Chardonnay vineyards ('Ma Douce' and 'Ma Princesse'), using mainly Old Wente clone selection.

2020 'MA PRINCESSE' CHARDONNAY 97+ POINTS

The 2020 'Ma Princesse' slowly unfurls with fragrant notions of key lime pie, orange blossom, and apricots, plus suggestions of baking bread and fresh ginger. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has wonderful tension with counter-intuitively bright fruit (for such a warm vintage) and loads of bright, vibrant citrus flavors, finishing on a lingering gingery note. 'Ma Princesse' comes from the Ritchie Vineyard in Russian River, which has some Goldridge soils, planted to 47-50 year+ vines of the Old Wente clone selection.

2020 'MA DOUCE' CHARDONNAY 96 POINTS

The 2020 'Ma Douce' kicks off with gregarious notes of crème caramel, baked pears, and passion fruit, plus suggestions of cedar chest and spice cake. The medium to full-bodied palate has a spritely backbone of acidity cutting through the rich, oily fruit, finishing long and opulent. 'Ma Douce' comes from a vineyard at 1300-1500 feet elevation in Fort Ross-Seaview, not far from Marcassin Vineyard, planted mainly to the Old Wente clone selection.

2020 'JOLI CŒUR' PINOT NOIR 96 POINTS

The 2020 'Joli Cœur' is medium ruby-purple colored. It rolls out of the glass with up-front notes of kirsch, redcurrant jelly, and wild blueberries, plus hints of iron ore, tree bark, and wild fungi. The full-bodied palate has a rock-solid structure of grainy tannins and a lively backbone, with vivacious red berry and earthy layers, finishing long and ferrous. This comes from the "sweet spot" within the 'Côteaux Nobles' and 'En Famille' vineyards in Fort Ross-Seaview AVA. The topsoil is very thin here and the clusters and berries are always smaller.

2020 'EN FAMILLE' PINOT NOIR 95 POINTS

The 2020 'En Famille' is medium ruby-purple colored. It is a little subdued at this youthful stage, delivering shy notions of wild thyme, damp soil, and cedar before giving way to a core of cherry pie, raspberry preserves, and mulberries. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is delicately styled and subtly layered, with red fruits and earthy accents supported by fine-grained tannins and seamless freshness, finishing savory. This comes from a vineyard planted in 1990, right next door to the 'Côteaux Nobles' vineyard in Fort Ross-Seaview AVA.

2020 'CÔTEAUX NOBLES' PINOT NOIR 95 POINTS

The 2020 'Côteaux Nobles' is medium ruby-purple colored. It sashays out with pretty notions of Bing cherries, fresh raspberries, and cranberry sauce with hints of chargrill and garrigue. The full-bodied palate is rich with loads of spicy notes coming through and a velvety texture, finishing with a refreshing lift. This wine comes from 27-year-old vines planted at the Nobles Ranch vineyard in the Fort Ross-Seaview AVA.

2019 'LA PROPORTION DORÉE' WHITE BORDEAUX-STYLE BLEND 97 POINTS

Luc Morlet has 100 Muscadelle vines, planted in 1953, which he co-ferments with the Sauvignon Blanc to produce this Sémillon-based wine. Composed of 69% Sémillon, 30% Sauvignon Blanc, and 1% Muscadelle, the 2019 'La Proportion Dorée' is a little closed to start, soon opening out to offer notes of mandarin peel, Golden Delicious apples, and honeycomb with hints of lemon grass and shaved almonds. The full-bodied palate is decadently intense with rich, savory layers and honey-tinged apple and citrus fruits, featuring a lively backbone and epic length.

2019 'COUP DE CŒUR' CHARDONNAY

98 POINTS

The 2019 'Coup de Cœur' needs a little swirling to unlock notes of lemon tart, lime cordial, and poached pears, plus hints of struck flint, toasted almonds, and acacia honey. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is tightly wound with wonderfully poised freshness and a silky texture supporting the shimmering fruit, finishing long and minerally.

2019 'MA PRINCESSE' CHARDONNAY

96 POINTS

The 2019 'Ma Princesse' waltzes out with beautifully showy scents of white peaches, lemongrass, and lime blossom giving way to wafts of marzipan and beeswax. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is compellingly savory with toasty flavors subduing the stone-fruit and floral perfume, featuring a lively backbone and creamy texture, and finishing long with a spicy lift.

2019 'MA DOUCE' CHARDONNAY

96 POINTS

The 2019 'Ma Douce' skips out of the glass with bright, fruity notions of grapefruit, fresh peaches, and Bosc pears, with suggestions of honeysuckle, nutmeg, and chalk dust. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is lively, with bags of energy contrasting with the rich fruit, finishing with great purity and a decadently satiny texture.

2019 'JOLI CŒUR' PINOT NOIR

98 POINTS

Medium ruby-purple colored, the 2019 'Joli Cœur' needs a little coaxing to bring out notes of crushed blackberries, Morello cherries, pomegranate, and potpourri with wafts of pencil lead and crushed rocks. The full-bodied palate is densely laden with black fruit and cherry preserves layers, framed by ripe, rounded tannins and tons of freshness, finishing long and minerally.

2019 'EN FAMILLE' PINOT NOIR

97 POINTS

Medium ruby-purple colored, the 2019 'En Famille' slips seductively out of the glass with notes of raspberry preserves, candied violets, and chocolate-covered cherries with hints of mossy tree bark and black truffles. The full-bodied palate is jam-packed with cherry cordial and savory accents, framed by very fine, silt-like tannins and just enough freshness, finishing very long and layered.

2019 'CÔTEAUX NOBLES' PINOT NOIR

95+ POINTS

Medium ruby-purple colored, the 2019 'Côteaux Nobles' charges out of the gate with fantastically fragrant notes of rose oil, kirsch, and black raspberries, plus wafts of pomegranate and cinnamon toast. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has a gorgeous velvety texture with rich, impactful red and black cherry layers and wonderfully floral undertones, finishing long and spicy.

2019 'BOUQUET GARNI' SYRAH

95 POINTS

The 2019 'Bouquet Garni' is deep purple-black in color. The nose starts off with powerful blackberry pie and boysenberry scents leading to the characteristic bouquet garni, smoked meats, and tree bark notes. The full-bodied, concentrated palate is taut with muscular black fruits, supported by ripe, rounded tannins, and well-poised freshness, finishing long and peppery. This is 100% Syrah made from three clones planted to a vineyard in Sonoma's Bennett Valley.