

• Antonio Galloni
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MORLET *Family Vineyards*

2013 'Morlet Estate' 96 points *St. Helena, Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon*

Dark cherry, raspberry jam, wild flowers, chocolate, mint and sweet spices are front and center in the 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Morlet Estate. Racy, powerful and voluptuous, the 2013 captures the personality that is typical of so many wines from this northern sector of St. Helena. The flavors profile is decidedly red-fruit leaning, but it is the interplay of all the elements that elevates the Estate.

2013 'Mon Chevalier' 96 points *Knights Valley Cabernet Sauvignon*

The 2013 Cabernet Sauvignon Mon Chevalier is one of the best wines of the year at Morlet. Ripe, exuberant and richly layered in the glass, the 2013 possesses nearly extravagant richness. This is an especially opulent style for Knights Valley. Some of the more savory notes typical of the appellation are hidden by the lushness of the fruit, but the pedigree and personality of this site can't be denied.

2013 'Bouquet Garni' 95 points *Bennett Valley Syrah*

One of the highlights in this range, the 2013 Syrah Bouquet Garni is outrageously beautiful. Inky blue and black stone fruit, herbs, game, tobacco, leather and cloves meld together in a deep, unctuous Syrah endowed with real class and personality. This is a striking, modern Syrah built on power and texture. The Bouquet Garni emerges from a site at 1,000 feet in elevation in Bennett Valley.

2013 'Ma Douce' 95 points *Fort Ross-Seaview Chardonnay*

The 2013 Chardonnay Ma Douce, from the Fort Ross-Seaview AVA, is striking. Deep, powerful and nuanced, Ma Douce captures the essence of Wente Clone Chardonnay. Apricot, butter, peach, wild flowers and lightly honeyed notes meld into the rich, creamy finish. This is a very pretty, textured Chardonnay from Luc and Jodie Morlet. With time in the glass, the wine acquires an additional dimension of grace. There is a lot to like.

2013 'Billet Doux' 95 points *Alexander Valley Late Harvest White Wine*

The 2013 Billet Doux, Luc Morlet's dessert wine, offers stunning flavor intensity and nuance. Even with all of its richness, the 2013 retains striking freshness and detail. Lemon confit, white flowers, mint, chamomile and lightly honeyed notes are beautifully delineated throughout.

2014 'Mon Chevalier' 95+ points *Knights Valley Cabernet Sauvignon*

An exotic interplay of graphite, plum, lavender, smoke and sage make a strong opening statement in the 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Mon Chevalier. Deep, savory and intense, the 2014 shows more of the mineral and soil-driven notes that are typical of Knights Valley. The tannins are imposing at this stage and yet there is enough intensity of fruit and overall breadth to balance things out. Exotic and beautifully layered, Mon Chevalier is also a terrific example of Knights Valley.

2014 'Passionnement' 95 points *Oakville, Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon*

The 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Passionnement is plush, sensual and inviting, which is a selection of the best barrels in the cellar. Bittersweet chocolate, lavender, graphite, spice and silky tannins add to the wine's considerable appeal.

2014 'Joli Cœur' 95 points *Fort Ross-Seaview Pinot Noir*

The 2014 Pinot Noir Joli Cœur offers a super-appealing interplay of juicy dark red cherry and raspberry flavor, with striking inner sweetness and lifted aromatics. Dense, pliant and voluptuous, the 2014 is exceptionally polished.

2014 'En Famille' 95 points *Fort Ross-Seaview Pinot Noir*

The 2014 Pinot Noir En Famille is powerful and intense, but also linear. All the signatures of this site come through nicely, but also amped up with quite a bit of structural underpinning. Darker tonalities of red stone, saltiness, wild flowers and exotic spices lead into the finish. The bright acids and overall structure here are quite appealing.