



WINE ADVOCATE

December 2019

MORLET *Family Vineyards*

2018 'COUP DE CŒUR' CHARDONNAY (97 - 100 POINTS)

'Coup de Cœur' is an über barrel-selection blend of the Morlet's Chardonnay vineyards, using exclusively Old Wente clone selection. A barrel sample to be bottled in February 2020, the 2018 Chardonnay 'Coup de Cœur' strides boldly out of the glass with classic notes of warm apricots, fresh grapefruit and honeydew melon plus suggestions of crushed nuts, baking bread, honeycomb and cedar. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is quite tightly knit, allowing glimpses of citrus and stone fruit layers and loads of savory sparks, finishing softly spoken yet with fantastic persistence.

2018 'MA PRINCESSE' CHARDONNAY (97 - 99 POINTS)

'Ma Princesse' comes from the Ritchie vineyard in Russian River, planted to Old Wente clone selection, from vines that are 50+ years old. A barrel sample to be bottled in February 2020, the 2018 Chardonnay 'Ma Princesse' comes sashaying out of the glass with flamboyant notes of peach cobbler, lemon tart and candied orange peel plus touches of fresh pineapple, spice cake, brioche and white blossoms. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is completely coated with stone fruit and spicy flavors, featuring a racy backbone and silken texture, finishing very long.

2018 'MA DOUCE' CHARDONNAY (96 - 98 POINTS)

'Ma Douce' comes from a vineyard in Fort Ross-Seaview—not far from Marcassin Vineyard. It is planted mainly to Old Wente clone selection. A barrel sample to be bottled in February 2020, the 2018 Chardonnay 'Ma Douce' has a provocative savoriness on the nose with loads of nutty/yeasty notions over the core of lemon curd, key lime pie and candle wax plus wafts of honeysuckle and marzipan. Medium-bodied, the palate has loads of zip and zing, with the intense yet elegantly expressed citrus fruit offset by a lively line of acidity, finishing long and mineral laced.

2018 'JOLI CŒUR' PINOT NOIR (97 - 99 POINTS)

The 'Joli Cœur' Pinot Noir comes from the "sweet spot" within the 'Côteaux Nobles' and 'En Famille' vineyards in Fort Ross-Seaview AVA. A barrel sample, the 2018 Pinot Noir 'Joli Cœur' has a medium ruby-purple color and is a little youthfully mute to begin, soon opening out to reveal amazingly complex notes of Black Forest cake, Morello cherries, black raspberries and wilted roses with touches of dark chocolate, star anise, fallen leaves and loam with a touch of bay leaves. Medium to full-bodied, the palate reveals loads of mineral accents intertwined with the red and black berry flavors, framed by plush tannins and finishing with amazing length and vivacity.

2018 'EN FAMILLE' PINOT NOIR (95 - 97+ POINTS)

The 'En Famille' Pinot Noir comes from a vineyard planted in 1990, right next door to the 'Côteaux Nobles' vineyard in Fort Ross-Seaview. A barrel sample, the 2018 Pinot Noir 'En Famille' sports a medium ruby-purple color, opening with a drop-dead gorgeous fragrance of violets, rose hip tea, fresh raspberries and cinnamon toast over a core of cherry pie and pomegranate plus wafts of garrigue and rhubarb. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has the most seductively silken texture framing the intense red berry and earthy flavors, finishing very long and refreshing.

2018 'CÔTEAUX NOBLES' PINOT NOIR (95 - 97 POINTS)

The 'Côteaux Nobles' Pinot Noir comes from 27-year-old vines planted at the Nobles Ranch vineyard in Fort Ross-Seaview AVA. A barrel sample, the 2018 Pinot Noir 'Côteaux Nobles' displays a medium ruby-purple color. It rocks up with beautiful black cherries, boysenberries and kirsch scents followed by wafts of allspice, cloves, wilted roses, Ceylon tea and freshly tilled loam. Medium to full-bodied, the palate offers wonderfully intense, perfumed black berry flavors with a plush texture and bags of freshness, finishing on a lingering spicy note.

2018 'BOUQUET GARNI' SYRAH

(94 - 96 POINTS)

The Syrah 'Bouquet Garni' is made from a field selection of three Syrah clones planted to a vineyard in Sonoma's Bennett Valley. A barrel sample, the 2018 Syrah 'Bouquet Garni' displays a deep purple-black color, bursting onto the scene with bold licorice, plum preserves, fruitcake and sautéed herbs notes plus hints of charcuterie, oolong tea and potpourri. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is firmly textured with ripe, rounded tannins and wonderful freshness, finishing long, lifted and savory.

2017 'COUP DE CŒUR' CHARDONNAY

99 POINTS

'Coup de Cœur' is an über barrel-selection blend of the Morlet's Chardonnay vineyards, using exclusively Old Wente clone selection. The 2017 Chardonnay 'Coup de Cœur' bursts with spicy notions of allspice and coriander seed over a core of ripe Bosc pears, apple pie and almond croissant with wafts of beeswax and candied ginger. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is tightly wound, offering beautiful tension to offset all the opulent, spicy flavors, finishing very long and incredibly harmonious even at this very youthful stage.

2017 'MA PRINCESSE' CHARDONNAY

98 POINTS

'Ma Princesse' comes from the Ritchie vineyard in Russian River, planted to Old Wente clone selection, from vines that are 50+ years old. The 2017 Chardonnay 'Ma Princesse' is a little reticent to begin, opening slowly with delicate notes of lemon meringue pie, white peaches and lime leaves plus emerging nuances of wet slate, paraffin wax, struck flint and croissant with a waft of praline. Medium to full-bodied, the palate is tightly wound and packed with taut citrus and mineral layers, framed by fantastic freshness and a satiny texture, finishing wonderfully tangy.

2017 'MA DOUCE' CHARDONNAY

98 POINTS

'Ma Douce' comes from a vineyard in Fort Ross-Seaview—not far from Marcassin Vineyard. It is planted mainly to Old Wente clone selection. The 2017 Chardonnay 'Ma Douce' comes bounding out of the glass with exuberant notes of ripe peaches, pink grapefruit and guava plus hints of butterscotch, toasted almonds, orange blossoms and acacia honey. Full-bodied, the palate is laden with exotic fruit and citrus layers, offset by a wicked backbone of freshness and the most seductive creaminess to the texture, finishing very long with tons of savory sparks.

2017 'JOLI CŒUR' PINOT NOIR

97+ POINTS

The 'Joli Cœur' Pinot Noir comes from the "sweet spot" within the 'Côteaux Nobles' and 'En Famille' vineyards in Fort Ross-Seaview AVA. Medium ruby-purple colored, the 2017 Pinot Noir 'Joli Cœur' comes rolling out of the glass with fragrant notes of chocolate-covered cherries, mulberries and raspberry tart plus nuances of lilacs, underbrush, mossy bark and wild mushrooms. Medium-bodied, the palate delivers mouth-filling red berry and earthy layers, framed by electric acidity and lovely, ripe, grainy tannins, finishing very long.

2017 'EN FAMILLE' PINOT NOIR

96 POINTS

The 'En Famille' Pinot Noir comes from a vineyard planted in 1990, right next door to the 'Côteaux Nobles' vineyard in Fort Ross-Seaview vineyard. Medium ruby-purple colored, the 2017 Pinot Noir 'En Famille' delivers quite serious scents of tobacco and new leather over a core of black raspberries, black cherries and kirsch with hints of dried herbs, tilled soil and red roses plus a waft of fallen leaves. Medium-bodied, the palate is fantastically fresh and delicately played, featuring grainy tannins to frame the energetic fruit, finishing long with a provocative ferrous note.

2017 'CÔTEAUX NOBLES' PINOT NOIR

96 POINTS

The 'Côteaux Nobles' Pinot Noir comes from 27-year-old vines planted at the Nobles Ranch vineyard in Fort Ross-Seaview AVA. Medium ruby-purple colored, the 2017 Pinot Noir 'Côteaux Nobles' has the most intense, fragrant perfume of warm cranberries, redcurrant jelly and fresh raspberries with hints of cinnamon stick, wild sage, underbrush and damp soil plus a waft of candied violets. Medium to full-bodied, the palate bursts with vivacity and freshness, offering layers of red berry and earthy flavors and a very finely grained texture, finishing long and perfumed.

2017 'BOUQUET GARNI' SYRAH

94+ POINTS

Syrah 'Bouquet Garni' is made from a field selection of three Syrah clones planted to a vineyard in Sonoma's Bennett Valley. Deep purple-black in color, the 2017 Syrah 'Bouquet Garni' springs from the glass with savory/earthy elements of dried herbs, black olives, charcoal and beef drippings over a core of fresh blackberries and warm plums plus a waft of cigar box. Medium to full-bodied, the palate has a compelling chewiness to the texture, matching all those savory layers, finishing long and pepper-laced.