

January 2021

## MORLET *Family Vineyards*

“The 2018 Cabernets impress for their nuance and delineation and are the first wines Luc and Jodie Morlet made entirely from their own vineyards, a hugely important achievement for a young estate.”

### **2018 ‘Morlet Estate’ 98 points** *St. Helena, Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon*

The 2018 ‘Morlet Estate’ is positively stellar. Inky and sumptuous to the core, the 2018 possesses notable richness from start to finish. Inky red/purplish berry fruit, rose petal, sweet spice and a kiss of new French oak build in a racy, voluptuous St. Helena Cabernet with soft contours and no hard edges. This is such a gorgeous wine and also a terrific example of St. Helena's Northern Corridor.

### **2018 ‘Mon Chevalier’ 97 points** *Knights Valley Cabernet Sauvignon*

The 2018 ‘Mon Chevalier’ shows all of the energy and delineation of Knights Valley in its drive. Crushed rocks, graphite, rose petal, mint and espresso complement a core of inky red/purplish berry fruit. A wine of true distinction and class, the 2018 is superb from the first taste. This is a classic Knights Valley Cabernet. It was done two-thirds in steel and one-third in puncheon.

### **2018 ‘Passionnément’ 96 points** *Oakville, Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon*

The 2018 ‘Passionnément’ is a blend from estate vineyards in St. Helena and Knights Valley. Bold and unctuous in the glass, the 2018 offers plenty of richness and depth, even if some slightly angular contours remain. Like all of the 2018s here, the ‘Passionnément’ is decidedly laid back and less bombastic than some previous editions, but it still boasts tremendous power to match its brooding profile. Chocolate, new leather, licorice and lavender linger.

### **2018 ‘Cœur de Vallée’ 95 points** *Oakville, Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon*

The 2018 ‘Cœur de Vallée’ is a gracious, elegant wine. Silky tannins and mid-weight structure give the 2018 superb polish. Sweet florals and spices are laced into a core of inky red/purplish berry fruit. This is an especially understated vintage for the ‘Cœur de Vallée,’ but all the elements are so impeccably balanced. This is a remarkable wine for a vineyard that were just four years old at the time.

### **2018 ‘Force de la Nature’ 95 points** *Oakville, Napa Valley Cabernet Franc*

The 2018 ‘Force de la Nature’ is a tiny production of 150 cases of pure Cabernet Franc from ‘Cœur de Vallée.’ Varietal Franc notes are front and center in this classy, polished Oakville Franc. Crushed rose petal, mint, cinnamon and blood orange linger on the long, finely delineated finish. I would cellar the 2018 for at least a few years, as it has quite a bit of tannin that needs to integrate. This is another superb wine from young vines.