



MORLET

Family Vineyards

2020

'CŒUR DE VALLÉE'



A First Great Growth in the heart of the Napa Valley



A SPECTACULAR SITE

The 'Cœur de Vallée' vineyard is situated in the world-renowned Oakville appellation, in the heart of the Napa Valley. The To Kalon Creek meanders through the spectacular property, which is planted to Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. The beautiful view of Mount Saint John is a reminder of the alluvial fan that provided the well-draining soil, comprised of 40 to 60% of gravel. It is the confluence of the amazing pedigree of surrounding properties and the alluvial material originating from the Mayacamas Range that makes this vineyard so special. Handcrafted using classical winemaking techniques, this wine is named after its vineyard namesake. It is 'Heart of the Valley' or 'Cœur de Vallée.'



THE 2020 VINTAGE

The 2020 season began with a warm and dry winter, as abundant rains did not come until the end of March. The mild spring season induced bud break sooner than had been originally expected, which led to the early ripening of the Cabernets. Bloom occurred under fair conditions, which led to a very good berry set. The summer season was typical, with its abundance of sunny and warm days alternated by cool nights and mornings. The vines and their crop developed normally. Due to the shortage of winter rains and the economic challenges caused by the pandemic, we decided to remove a considerable amount of fruit from the vines. This wise and conservative decision allowed an even earlier ripening and subsequent harvest (September 12-17), which permitted us to dodge the devastating Glass Fire (September 27th). The consistent warm temperatures without major heat spikes maintained the natural acidity, hence the fresh and lively character of this wonderful vintage.

WINEMAKER NOTES

"Boasting an intense and complex bouquet of crushed strawberry, cassis, blackberry, black cherry, fig leaf, mocha and tobacco leaf, the 2020 'Cœur de Vallée' is rich and concentrated, with a superb entry of red and black fruits, dark bittersweet chocolate, Kahlúa liqueur, dried lavender, potpourri and cedar cigar box. With round tannins and a creamy texture, this is a magnificent wine." *Luc Morlet*



‘CŒUR DE VALLÉE’ 2020

Proprietary name	‘Cœur de Vallée’
Name meaning	Heart of the Valley
Varietal composition	Cabernet Sauvignon (94%) Cabernet Franc (6%)
Type of wine	Estate grown; terroir-driven; vineyard designated
Appellation	Oakville, Napa Valley
Vineyard singularity	Morlet Family ‘Cœur de Vallée’ Vineyard Alluvial soils alongside the To Kalon Creek; Bale soils; loamy topsoil on loamy & clay-loamy subsoils; consisting of 40-60% gravel
Farming	Organic & sustainable farming by full-time, year-round Morlet Farming team (<i>Organic Certification in progress</i>)
Harvest dates	September 12-17, 2020
Picking	Night pick; manual; small lugs; refrigerated truck
Sorting	Cluster-by-cluster & berry-per-berry by hand; Le Trieur™
Fermentation	Through native yeast; punch downs in stainless steel tanks & Darnajou French oak puncheons; Gyrobox™
Upbringing	16 months in French oak barrels from selected artisan coopers
Bottling	Unfined, unfiltered
Ideal cellaring	5 to 10 years after harvest date
Arc of aging	30+ years
Serving	61-64°F (16-18°C); Decant 1 hour prior to serving

99 Points

“One of the genuine stars of the September releases”

“Just lovely and so utterly impressive. The florality is fabulous. Wow. A lovely complexity to the fruit signature and an exquisite texture in the mouth to match. Gloriously refined, soft, lithe, and tense. Sumptuous, almost sinuous and with supreme elegance and finesse. One of the genuine stars of the September releases.” *Colin Hay, The Drinks Business, Aug. 2023*

“Avec beaucoup d’onctuosité et d’intensité”

“Ce millésime offre une rondeur et une douceur de tannins séduisantes, avec beaucoup d’onctuosité et d’intensité, une richesse enveloppante et une aromatique très persistante.” *Thierry Desseauve, Bettane+Desseauve En Magnum, Dec. 2024; Jan.-Feb. 2025*

97 Points

“In another vintage, this would undoubtedly be a 100-point wine”

“A top performing producer from Oakville in this vintage, the 2020 ‘Cœur de Vallée’ is a beautiful, full-bodied, mineral-driven, energetic wine with curvy edges. Very precise tannins plump up with air, and the finish is marked by fresh, loamy soils and crushed stones. In another vintage with far fewer challenges, this would almost undoubtedly be a 100-point wine.” *Jonathan Cristaldi, Decanter, Sept. 2023*

