



MORLET

Family Vineyards

2018

‘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. A seasonal 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 2018 VINTAGE

From spring to harvest, the weather in 2018 was remarkably steady and gentle, creating ideal conditions for a superb vintage, where great quality was paired with relative quantity. Beginning with a mild spring, a late bloom generated uniform grape clusters. Warm temperatures throughout the growing season (without any heat spells) led to a cooler than average ripening season, which allowed for an extended hang time during the ripening process. Riper flavors were noticeable at lower sugar levels. Élevage confirmed the strong personality of this incredible and age-worthy wine.

WINEMAKER NOTES

“The remarkable 2018 ‘Cœur de Vallée’ leaps from the glass with an intense and complex bouquet of black raspberries, crème de cassis, rose petals, dried tobacco, coffee bean and truffles. Full-bodied, seamless and opulent, the wine boasts a powerful, yet weightless style and an amazingly long finish!”

Luc Morlet



2018 'CŒUR DE VALLÉE'

<i>Proprietary name</i>	'Cœur de Vallée'
<i>Varietal composition</i>	Cabernet Sauvignon (97%) Cabernet Franc (3%)
<i>Type of wine</i>	Estate grown; terroir-driven; vineyard designated
<i>Appellation</i>	Oakville, Napa Valley
<i>Vineyard singularity</i>	Morlet Family 'Cœur de Vallée' Vineyard Alluvial soils alongside a seasonal creek; Bale soils; loamy topsoil on loamy & clay-loamy subsoils; consisting of 40-60% gravel
<i>Farming</i>	Organic, sustainable & regenerative farming by full-time, year-round Morlet Farming team (<i>Organic Certification in progress</i>)
<i>Harvest dates</i>	October 2018
<i>Picking</i>	Night pick; manual; small lugs; refrigerated truck
<i>Sorting</i>	Cluster-by-cluster & berry-per-berry by hand; Le Trieur™
<i>Fermentation</i>	Through native yeast; punch downs in stainless steel tanks & Darnajou French oak puncheons; Gyrobox™
<i>Upbringing</i>	16 months in French oak barrels from selected artisan coopers
<i>Bottling</i>	Unfined, unfiltered
<i>Ideal cellaring</i>	5 to 10 years after harvest date
<i>Arc of aging</i>	30+ years
<i>Serving</i>	61-64°F (16-18°C); Decant 1 hour prior to serving

98 Points

"Absolutely world class, the 2018 'Cœur de Vallée' reveals flat-out awesome nose of crème de cassis, black raspberries, flowery incense, dried tobacco, and classy new leather. This carries to a full-bodied, opulent, seamless 2018 with incredible tannins, flawless balance, and a blockbuster of a finish. It's classic To Kalon with its rich, powerful, yet weightless style. I kept thinking of a great 1982 Bordeaux while tasting this beauty, as those show a similar level of class, richness, and balance."

Jeb Dunnuck, Jan. 2021

"The 2018 'Cœur de Vallée' is beautifully crystalline with that lovely 'Morlet' hint of struck match, black cherry, black raspberry, beeswax and lily of the valley, with a suggestion of tobacco leaf and a lovely classical cedar note. Dense, compact, texturally sublime and layered, this is incredibly spherical at the core. The quality of the tannins is incredible and the aging potential colossal. This is a very Bordeaux-styled Napa!"

Colin Hay, The Drinks Business, Sept. 2025

"The 2018 'Cœur de Vallée' leaps with bright, vivacious crushed blackberries, black raspberries, and crushed blackcurrants scents, giving way to notes of roses, tilled soil, pencil shavings, and truffles. Firm, finely grained, and refreshing, it is packed with with bright, crunchy black fruits, finishing long and fragrant."

Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW, The Wine Independent, Août 2022

"Beautifully fragrant, sophisticated, stylish, and polished, the 2018 'Cœur de Vallée' is wonderfully expressive and features vibrant and pliant tannins nuanced by red- and black-toned saline-ripe fruit layered with green tobacco. You'd be hard-pressed to believe this wine does not come from Beckstoffer To Kalon but rather from the Morlet family's own 10.11-hectare property."

Jonathan Cristaldi, Decanter, Jan. 2025

