MORLET

Family Vineyards

2021

'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 2021 Vintage

We experienced rains in January and February yet had almost no precipitation for the remainder of the 2021 season. This provided an environment for the vines to develop very small shoots and canopy. Bloom occurred in early spring with some shattering, which **naturally limited the future crop**. The drought conditions led to **petite berries** and **loose clusters**, with **excellent intensity**, **color**, **concentration** and **acidic structure**. The warm days of October, without heat spikes, brought an **even ripening of the tannins**, resulting in **tremendous softness while preserving freshness**. The élevage of the wines confirmed the strong personality of this **unquestionably great vintage**; a fantastic and age-worthy wine.

Winemaker Notes

"The **stunning 2021 'Cœur de Vallée'** displays a dark vibrant purple hue with intense aromatics of cassis, dark chocolate, black olive and fruits confits intermixed with a complex bouquet of violets, wild sage, and notes of Foin de Crau and blond tobacco leaf. **Rich** and **concentrated**, yet **elegant** and **refined**, this outstanding wine possesses a **magnificent texture** with an **incredible sense of depth**. The **silky** and **lush tannins** bring **striking tenderness**, culminating in a **seamless** and **driven wine**." *Luc Morlet, June 2024*

'Cœur de Vallée' 2021

Proprietary name	'Cœur de Vallée'
Name meaning	Heart of the Valley
Varietal composition	Cabernet Sauvignon (95%) Cabernet Franc (5%)
Type of wine	Estate grown; terroir-driven; vineyard designated
Appellation	Oakville, Napa Valley
Vineyard singularity	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
Farming	Organic & sustainable farming by full-time, year-round Morlet Farming team *(Organic Certification in progress)*
Harvest dates	September 25 - 26; October 1, 5, & 12, 2021
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

100 Points

"Such **an impressive wine - the pick of the US releases on La Place this year**, and also perhaps **the most Bordelais**. There's **staggering concentration** and **great density**. The quality of the pixilating tannins is remarkable. **Exquisite already**, but with the capacity to **age glacially**." *Colin Hay, The Drinks Business, Sept. 2024*

"A **masterful wine - elegant**, with deep concentration and staying power. Layered with firm, **superfine tannins** that soar in intensity on the mid-palate yet melt effortlessly on the mineral-laced finish. **Just remarkable**." *Jonathan Cristaldi, Decanter, Jan. 2025*

"Then comes 'Cœur de Vallée' in all its **regal splendor**. Generous and expansive with every facet sculpted in granular detail and **clearly built for greatness**. Its **noble,** at times racy, palate weight is underpinned by stellar oak. What more is there to say, except that **in the past ten years, Gilbert & Gaillard has awarded only three 100/100 scores** and **2021 'Cœur de Vallée' is one of them**." *Etienne Gaillard, Gilbert & Gaillard, Dec. 2025*

Luc Morlet: Designer of 'Le Trieur'™ & 'Gyrobox'™