



MORLET

Family Vineyards

2023

‘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.’

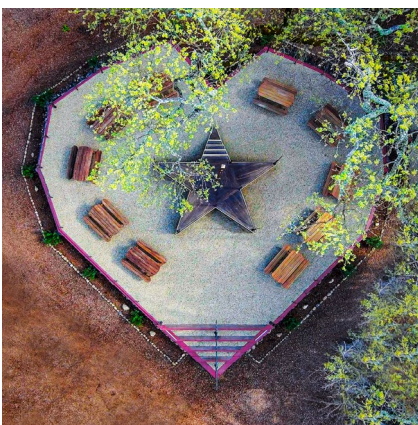


THE 2023 VINTAGE

Early heavy winter rains ended a multiple-year drought (2020, 2021 & 2022 seasons), bringing much relief. The previous years’ conditions were still noticeable in the small size of the pruning wood. Yet, the abundant winter rainfall replenished the underground water and delayed budbreak by ten days. Subsequent mild and sunny weather boosted the vines, developing a full and healthy canopy through bloom, with only a small amount of shattering. This loss of berry set led to loose clusters, great air flow, and light sunbathing. Berries remained small, with a concentration of flavors and extra pigments. We carried out two thinning passes, further aerating the fruit zone and assuring the ultimate quality to the crop. Characterized by consistent, sunny, and mild weather, the ripening season provided a gentle and steady development of the flavors and phenolics, resulting in a full expression of the terroir. The end of harvest confirmed the excellence of this vintage.

WINEMAKER NOTES

“Very dark in color, the 2023 ‘Cœur de Vallée’ boasts an extremely intense and complex bouquet of wild black fruit mélange, blueberry, and cassis intermixed with notes of crushed stone, foin de Crau, Quatre-Épices, and hints of iron. Full-bodied, the wine displays a seamless texture with beautiful density and a refined quality of tannins, finishing long with a bright and lingering lift. Graceful and lively, this Cabernet Sauvignon is a true vin de garde.” Luc Morlet, January 2026



2023 'CŒUR DE VALLÉE'

Proprietary name	'Cœur de Vallée'
Name meaning	Heart of the Valley
Varietal composition	Cabernet Sauvignon (98%) Cabernet Franc (2%)
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 & regenerative farming by full-time, year-round Morlet Farming team (<i>Organic Certification in progress</i>)
Harvest dates	September 2023
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

"Bearing that unmistakable California ripeness and intensity"

"Bearing that unmistakable California ripeness and intensity, seamless and expressive, building in the glass with muddled blackberry fruits and wonderfully captivating Cabernet Franc spice that calls to mind a faint 'foin de Crau' character (dried hay). Supple tannins frame a core of deep, penetrating concentration, yet the wine remains energetic. There is a fleshy richness without heaviness or excessive creaminess, and good tension through the lingering finish."

Jonathan Cristaldi Decanter, March 2026

99 Points

"Utterly pure, focused, and layered with beautiful density"

"The 2023 'Cœur de Vallée' offers cassis, crushed stone, black olive, iron, and spicy wood. It's full-bodied yet utterly pure, focused, and layered with beautiful density, ultra-fine tannins, and not a hard edge to find. This "wow," seamless, gorgeous wine will drink for 20 years or more."

Jeb Dunnuck JebDunnuck.com, December 2025

