



# 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. 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 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

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 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> )
Vintage notes	Drought conditions provided excellent intensity, color, concentration, structure & freshness
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
Cellaring	Ideal cellaring 6-7 years after harvest date; Arc of aging 30+ years
Serving	61-64°F (16-18°C); Decanting recommended

### 100 Points

*“The pick of the US releases on La Place this year”*

“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. With a silky texture, the quality of the pixilating tannins is remarkable and gives this an incredible clarity and crystallinity in the mid-palate, allowing the fruit to dance and play, to glisten and glide. Exquisite already, but with the capacity to age glacially.”

*Colin Hay, The Drinks Business, Sept. 2024*

### 98 Points

*“Flawlessly balanced and elegant”*

“The 2021 ‘Cœur de Vallée’ is a screaming good effort displaying a rich, full-bodied, layered, and powerful style that somehow manages to stay flawlessly balanced and elegant.”

*Jeb Dunnuck, Dec. 2023*

*“Wonderful freshness with firm, plush tannins”*

“The medium to full-bodied palate has wonderful freshness, with firm, plush tannins and bags of black fruit and mineral layers, finishing on a lingering mineral note.”

*Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW, The Wine Independent, Feb. 2024*

