



Robert Parker's

Wine Advocate

MORLET FAMILY VYDS.	2007	CAB. SAUV. COEUR DE VALLEE	OAKVILLE/TO-KALON (not yet determined)	RED	(93-95)
MORLET FAMILY VYDS.	2007	CAB. SAUV. MON CHEVALIER	KNIGHT'S VALLEY (not yet determined)	RED	(90-92)
MORLET FAMILY VYDS.	2007	CAB. SAUV. PASSIONEMENT	OAKVILLE (not yet determined)	RED	(94-96)
MORLET FAMILY VYDS.	2007	CAB. SAUV. COEUR DE VALLEE	OAKVILLE/TO-KALON (not yet determined)	RED	(93-95)
MORLET FAMILY VYDS.	2007	CHARDONNAY COUP DE COEUR	SONOMA COAST (\$125.00)	WHITE	(92-95)
MORLET FAMILY VYDS.	2007	CHARDONNAY MA DOUCE	SONOMA COAST (\$75.00)	WHITE	(92-95)
MORLET FAMILY VYDS.	2007	CHARDONNAY MA PRINCESSE	RUSSIAN RIVER (\$85.00)	WHITE	(93-95)
MORLET FAMILY VYDS.	2007	PINOT NOIR COTEAUX NOBLES	SONOMA COAST (\$75.00)	RED	(92-94)
MORLET FAMILY VYDS.	2007	PINOT NOIR EN FAMILLE	SONOMA COAST (\$85.00)	RED	(93-95)
MORLET FAMILY VYDS.	2007	PINOT NOIR JOLI COEUR	SONOMA COAST (\$95.00)	RED	(93-95)
MORLET FAMILY VYDS.	2007	LA PROPORTION DOREE	SONOMA COUNTY (\$60.00)	WHITE	95
MORLET FAMILY VYDS.	2007	SYRAH BOUQUET GARNI	BENNETT VALLEY (\$85.00)	RED	(91-94)

I'll keep my tasting notes relatively short since the production of most of these wines is small. The Chardonnay production for the Ma Douce and Ma Princesse is 200-360 cases, but the Coup de Coeur is only three barrels, or 75 cases. The Pinot Noirs are all four barrels, or 100 cases, so notes are limited, but there are 480 cases of the absolutely sensational La Proportion Dorée and just under 200 cases of each of the Cabernet Sauvignons. These are all the projects of well-known Luc Morlet, whose brother is the principal winemaker at Peter Michael after replacing Luc himself, who now has a consulting firm, in addition to this project under his own family name.

Not surprisingly, Luc Morlet's Chardonnays all emerge from old Wente clones and have a style not terribly different from what one might expect from Peter Michael. His motto at the winery is, "Quality without compromise," and one sees that throughout these personality-filled wines. The **2007 Chardonnay Ma Douce** displays stunning notes of poached pear, *crème brûlée*, honeysuckle, and a hint of tropical fruit in a full-bodied style with terrific acidity, purity, and a background minerality. It should drink nicely for 4-5 years. The **2007 Chardonnay Ma Princesse** is even more impressive. This comes from the Goldridge soils of the Russian River basin and has incredibly rich, honeyed nectarine notes intermixed with poached pear, brioche, and spice. The wine is full-bodied, with superb tart acid buttressing the wine's powerful, formidable, lean, endowed personality. The length is striking. It should drink well for 7-8 years. There are only 75 cases of this selection from the three best barrels in the cellar, and that wine has the most minerality, structure, and firmness of the three Chardonnays, but who will ever be able to find it?

As for the Pinot Noirs, all are from the Sonoma Coast and are 100% destemmed and aged largely in 100% new François Frères Burgundy barrels. The **2007 Pinot Noir Coteaux Nobles** exhibits flowery raspberry and forest floor notes, some hints of kirsch, underbrush, and root vegetables. It is made from a suitcase clone that was smuggled in, and no doubt it is from a grand cru vineyard in Burgundy, given the aromatics and flavors of this wine. It should drink beautifully for up to a decade. The **2007 Pinot Noir En Famille** has a more saturated, deeper ruby/purple color, a beautifully sweet nose of spring flowers, forest floor,

black raspberries, and blueberries. The wine is rich, round, full-bodied, and has sensational texture and length. It should also drink for a decade. Lastly, the **2007 Pinot Noir Joli Coeur** is a prodigious Pinot Noir. It has more earth, roasted herbs, forest floor, and even more intense black cherry and black raspberry notes. What sets it apart is an absolutely sumptuous texture and stunning length of close to 45 seconds. These gorgeous Pinots are great achievements and set for 5-8 years of life.

Notes of steak tartare, tar, pepper, and lard jump from the dense purple-colored **2007 Syrah Bouquet Garni** from Bennett Vineyard. It is structured, very northern Rhône-like, and clearly a cool-climate Syrah. This wine should drink well for up to a decade. One of the most profound blends of Semillon, Sauvignon Blanc, and in this case, 2% Muscadelle, is the **2007 La Proportion Dorée** (64% Semillon, 34% Sauvignon Blanc, and 2% Muscadelle). An extraordinary nose of waxy, honeyed grapefruit, melons, figs, and quince is superb. In the mouth, a liqueur of rocks intermixed with quinine, quince, and waxy notes continues to cascade over the palate. This is a sensational, dry, incredibly complex wine that shows the potential that blends such as this can achieve. Drink it over the next 4-5 years.

All three Cabernet Sauvignons (close to 200 cases of each) are impressive wines. The **2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Passionement** is from the Oakville Corridor. It displays beautiful licorice, *crème de cassis*, cedar, and smoke in a full-bodied, opulent, flamboyant, and exuberant style. This wine should turn out to be terrific and drink well for 20+ years. From the To-Kalon Vineyard, the **2007 Cabernet Sauvignon Coeur de Vallée** is a blend of 76% Cabernet Sauvignon and 24% Cabernet Franc. Another compelling wine from Luc Morlet, the seamless integration of acidity, tannin, alcohol, and wood are all present in this deep purple-colored wine, which is made in small fermenters and has beautiful purity and depth. The Knight's Valley Cabernet Sauvignon, the **2007 Mon Chevalier**, has notes of graphite, crushed rocks, blue and black fruits as well as terrific intensity, all in a style not totally dissimilar from what Luc Morlet made for his boss Peter Michael under the name Les Pavots. From a high hillside elevation in Knight's Valley, this Cabernet Sauvignon should drink well for 15 or more years. Tel. (707) 967-8900; Fax (707) 967-8590

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