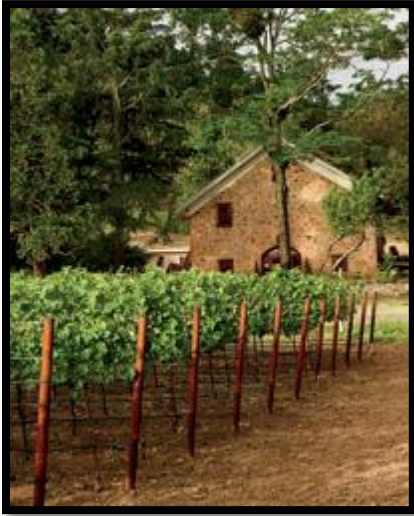


F&W American Wine Awards 2011



The Morlet Family Vineyards Napa home base is a restored pre-Prohibition winery built in 1880. Photo courtesy of Morlet Vineyards.

Wine Awards Winner: Morlet Family Vineyards

F&W'S AMERICAN WINE AWARDS: A TASTE OF FRANCE IN NAPA VALLEY.

By Ray Isle

NAPA VALLEY

It's possible to be one of Napa's most vaunted winemakers and still not be satisfied. Luc Morlet, the scion of a French winemaking family, produced critically acclaimed wines for Peter Michael Winery and other properties. But, he says, "Ever since I was a kid, I wanted to start my own winery—it's part of my DNA."

Now he's achieved that, and more. Morlet's Cabernets, like the tobacco-edged **2008 Morlet Family Vineyards Coeur de Vallée (\$175)**, have risen to Napa's top ranks in only three vintages; his Chardonnays are equally complex. Regarding the stratospheric scores they've received, Morlet responds with a French saying: "When you love, you don't count."



2009 Morlet Family Vineyards
'Ma Douce' Sonoma Coast Chardonnay (\$70).
Photo © Bruce Ashley.