

**2010 Morlet Family Vineyards
Force de la Nature**

The 2010 Force de la Nature, here in its first vintage, is 100% Cabernet Franc from Andy Beckstoffer's famed To Kalon vineyard in Oakville. The 2010 is an intriguing wine laced with mocha, spices, grilled herbs and dark raspberry jam. It possesses stunning depth and richness, with endless layers of fruit that wrap around the powerful, imposing finish. This is a dense wine with massive structure and tons of fruit, although today it is the tannins that have the upper hand. It will be interesting to see where this 2010 goes over the next few years. Morlet dedicated the wine to his great-grandfather, who was known as a "force de la nature" back in his native Champagne. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2025.

(Not yet released)

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**2010 Morlet Family Vineyards
Cabernet Sauvignon Coeur de
Vallee**

The 2010 Coeur de Vallee is cool, inward and reticent, yet its pedigree is impossible to miss. Cassis, Chambord, blackberry jam, graphite, licorice and sweet spices are some of the notes that take shape in the glass. Firm structured tannins frame the long, authoritative finish. Once again, I find Coeur de Vallee to be the most complete of Luc Morlet's Bordeaux-inspired reds. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2025.

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**2010 Morlet Family Vineyards
Passionnement**

The 2010 Passionnement (Cabernet Sauvignon) is a big, explosive wine bursting with dark fruit, white flowers, spices and licorice. It is a big, rich wine bursting with flavor and sheer character, the finesse of the year coming through in spades. This looks to be a wine that will require considerable patience. Clean, mineral notes frame the finish. The coolness of the vintage helps balance some of the more extroverted tendencies that are often present in this best barrel selection. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2030.

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**2010 Morlet Family Vineyards
Morlet Estate**

The 2010 Morlet Estate emerges from a vineyard in St Helena. It is a rich, round, totally seamless wine graced with exquisite grace and elegance. It is remarkably polished for a 2010. Layers of perfume fruit and dark red berries frame the finish. The Morlet Estate shows the more delicate, feminine side of the year in its red fruit and floral overtones. This is another promising wine. The Morlet Estate is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon made from a newly-acquired vineyard in St. Helena. The 2010 is made from a 2-acre parcel on the bench, and there are another 4 acres in the foothills the Morlets expect to plant in the near future. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2025.

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**2010 Morlet Family Vineyards
Cabernet Sauvignon Mon
Chevalier**

The 2010 Mon Chevalier comes across as dark, brooding and intense. Here the profile tends very much to the dark end of the spectrum. Black cherries, mocha, spices, tar, black pepper and licorice are some of the notes that flow from this intense, brooding wine. This is a dazzling effort from Luc and Jodie Morlet. In 2010 the blend is the same as in 2009, which is to say 86% Cabernet Sauvignon., 8% Cabernet Franc, 3% Merlot, 2% Malbec and 1% Petit Verdot. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2028.

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**2010 Morlet Family Vineyards
Chardonnay Ma Princesse**

The 2010 Chardonnay Ma Princesse wraps around the palate with deep layers of fruit. The richness of the small berries and old Wente clones comes through as the fruit caresses the palate from start to finish. Sweet floral notes add lift and brightness on the close. This vivid, multi-dimensional Chardonnay should drink well for a number of years. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2020.

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**2010 Morlet Family Vineyards
Chardonnay Coup de Coeur**

The 2010 Chardonnay Coup De Coeur is a selection of the estate's finest barrels. It shows a bit more depth than the estate's other 2010s, and also slightly riper tendencies in the fruit. Still, I find the qualitative difference between this and Ma Princesse minimal, at least at present. There is plenty of intensity in the tropical fruit, spices and almonds that frame the finish. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2018.

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**2010 Morlet Family Vineyards
Chardonnay Ma Douce**

The 2010 Chardonnay Ma Douce possesses gorgeous aromatics, expressive fruit and an inviting, creamy finish. The flavors aren't fully developed, but that is not surprising given that the fruit was not picked until the end of October in this late-ripening coastal site. It is the elegance of the texture that stands out most. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2019.

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**2010 Morlet Family Vineyards
Pinot Noir Coteaux Nobles**

The 2010 Pinot Noir Coteaux Nobles is a gorgeous, supple wine laced with sweet red fruit, kirsch, hard candy and flowers. Balance and harmony are the hallmarks. This is a gorgeous, sophisticated wine from Luc Morlet. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2022.

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**2010 Morlet Family Vineyards
Pinot Noir en Famille**

The 2010 Pinot Noir En Famille is from the same site as the Coteaux Nobles, but here Morlet uses puncheons to ferment the juice. As is to be expected, this is a much more intense style of Pinot, with greater depth in the fruit, sweeter aromatics and an overall impression of depth. Super ripe red berries, hard candy, flowers and licorice round out the finish. This is a racy, exuberant wine that will appeal most to readers who enjoy full-bodied, fleshy Pinot. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2020.

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**2010 Morlet Family Vineyards
Pinot Noir Joli Coeur**

The 2010 Pinot Noir Joli Coeur comes across as rather implosive. Currently the wine is holding back much of its ultimate potential. Layers of fruit flow gracefully towards the textured, inviting finish. Sweet floral notes, mint, spices and succulent black cherries frame the close. The Joli Coeur is made from a parcel within the Coteaux Nobles where the vines produce smaller berries than in the rest of the site. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2020.

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**2010 Morlet Family Vineyards
Billet Doux**

The 2010 Billet Doux (Semillon/Sauvignon) is bigger and richer than the 2009. The higher amount of Semillon in this vintage (90%) and the presence of 100% botrytised fruit are clearly felt. Burnt sugar, smoke, apricots and spices are woven together in this gorgeous, burnished sweet wine. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2020.

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**2010 Morlet Family Vineyards La
Proportion Doree**

The 2010 Proportion Doree (Semillon/Sauvignon) is striking. It possesses more minerality, verve and backbone. Orange peel, tangerine, mint and sweet spices are some of the nuances that flow from this beautifully delineated white. This is a gorgeous white wine. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2022.

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**2010 Morlet Family Vineyards
Syrah Bouquet Garni**

The 2010 Syrah Bouquet Garni is intensely spiced and floral from start to finish. Dark cherries, plums, mint, wild flowers and spices are some of the many nuances that take shape in the glass as this vibrant wine opens up. Floral notes continue to develop, lending an air of delicateness to the finish notwithstanding the presence of firm underlying tannins. I am very curious to watch how this wine develops over the next few years. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2020.

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