



The Independent Consumer's Guide to Fine Wines

2009 Morlet Family Vineyards Chardonnay Coup de Coeur

Rating: (96-100)

Drink: -

Not surprisingly, Morlet's finest 2009 is the 2009 Chardonnay Coup de Coeur (185 cases produced), a selection of the top barrels. It boasts creamy orange marmalade, honeysuckle, white currant and spring flower notes in a full-bodied yet refreshing format. With stunning aromatics as well as remarkable concentration, purity, texture and length, this may be one of the all-time great Chardonnays ever made in California.

(Not yet released)

This exceptional group of wines is limited in quantity (from a low of 125 cases to a high of 400+ cases for several of the Chardonnays) cuvees. This is the visionary project of Luc Morlet, a Frenchman who worked for Peter Michael and still consults there with his brother, Nicolas. In issue 192 I reviewed the Morlet Family's Cabernet Sauvignons from Oakville. The following reviews include his brilliant Chardonnays, Pinot Noirs and Syrahs from cool climate sites primarily located on the Sonoma Coast, but also in the Russian River and Bennett Valley. The 2009 Chardonnays are as concentrated as the 2008s, which is rather remarkable since the yields were higher in 2009. The alcohols are slightly lower, but these are some of the finest 2009 Chardonnays I tasted in California. Like the 2008s, Morlet believes in the old Wente clone of Chardonnay as opposed to some of the newer Dijon or older Davis clones. Tasted from barrel, all three 2009 Chardonnays are perfumed and perhaps that's what sets them slightly apart from the brilliant 2008s. The Pino...

- Robert Parker (February, 2011)

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2009 Morlet Family Vineyards Chardonnay Ma Douce

Rating: (94-96)

Drink: -

The 2009 Chardonnay Ma Douce exhibits abundant nectarine, peach, honeysuckle, citrus oil and mango notes intermixed with a hint of subtle oak, a concentrated mouthfeel and a stunning finish. This comes from a vineyard planted at a 1,300 foot elevation with both the old Wente clone (20%) and Dijon clones (80%).

(Not yet released)

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2009 Morlet Family Vineyards Chardonnay Ma Princesse

Rating: (94-97)

Drink: -

Produced from 100% old Wente clones, the light gold-colored 2009 Chardonnay Ma Princesse offers beautiful aromas of tangerines, mangos, sweet white currants and quince, a creamy, full-bodied, voluptuous texture and gorgeous acidity.

(Not yet released)

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2009 Morlet Family Vineyards Pinot Noir Coteaux Nobles

Rating: (91-93)

Drink: -

The brilliant 2009s include the 2009 Pinot Noir Coteaux Nobles which exhibits beautiful tangy blue fruits, rhubarb, raspberries, earth and loamy soil characteristics as well as medium to full body and moderate tannin in the heady finish.

(Not yet released)

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2009 Morlet Family Vineyards Pinot Noir en Famille

Rating: (94-97)

Drink: 2011-2021

Even better is the 2009 Pinot Noir En Famille. Aromas of strawberries, black cherry jam, forest floor, rhubarb, pomegranate, crushed rock and smoke are followed by a beautiful Pinot that should drink nicely for a decade.

(Not yet released)

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2009 Morlet Family Vineyards Pinot Noir Joli Coeur

Rating: (96-98)

Drink: 2014-2029

The finest offering, the 2009 Pinot Noir Joli Coeur possesses shocking density as well as abundant tannin. Hints of fresh porcini mushrooms, bouquet garni, meat juices, black raspberries, cherries and plums are found in this complex yet structured, tannic wine. It is best cellared for 3-4 years and should drink well over the following 10-15+.

(Not yet released)

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