

# Jodie Morlet

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES



VALEDICTORIAN 1988, SACRAMENTO, CA WITH DR. JIM SPEAKMAN

Jodie grew up in Sacramento, California. The daughter of Physical Education teachers, she spent many years dancing and swimming, and playing soccer, basketball and volleyball. In high school, Jodie served on the Board of Directors and Speakers Bureau for People Reaching Out, a nonprofit agency which works to mobilize young people to build healthy futures for themselves, their families and the community. Speaking throughout the state on behalf of the organization, Jodie also served as President for Students Reaching Out, presenting elementary school children with empowering tools for decision making and dealing with peer pressure. Jodie graduated Valedictorian in 1988, inspired by such outstanding teachers as Dr. Jim Speakman (English) and Mr. Gordon Baldwin (Psychology). She then headed off to be a Bruin at The University of California, Los Angeles.

While at UCLA, Jodie majored in Child Psychology and minored in Developmental Disabilities and Diversified Liberal Arts. She served as a Behavioral Therapist for the Young Autism Project, and her research for the Developmental Disabilities Immersion Program identifying at-risk preschool age children was published during her junior year. Jodie student taught at UCLA's prestigious Lab School on the Corinne A. Seeds campus and was influenced by remarkable educators including Sharon Sutton, Deanna Staake and the late Madeline Hunter. After earning her Masters of Education and two teaching credentials, she moved back to Northern California to be closer to her family.

Jodie began teaching third grade in Roseville, California and spent her evenings taking American Sign Language classes at the local college. She was introduced to Luc while on vacation in France during the summer of 1994, which began her love for both wine and the young Frenchman whom she had just met. One year after Luc left his native Champagne to take over the Winemaking at Newton Vineyard in St. Helena, he and Jodie were married. Jodie then began teaching first grade for the local school district.

After the birth of their first child, Jodie founded The Morlet Selection, Inc. in 1999. She began by importing Pierre Morlet Champagnes and eventually grew the business to represent the acclaimed Tonnellerie Darnajou barrels, Tonnellerie Gauthier Frères barrels and the innovative Vinocolor. In 2001, Luc became the Winemaker for the highly acclaimed Peter Michael Winery in Knights Valley.

In 2005, Jodie fulfilled her lifelong dream of studying in France and received the *Certificat de Langue Française* at the University of Paris, Sorbonne. She returned to teaching full-time shortly thereafter, when their youngest child entered kindergarten.

The following year, Jodie and Luc began crafting wines, in limited quantities, from unique vineyards of Napa Valley and Sonoma County, under the Morlet Family Vineyards label. Luc oversaw all of the Winemaking, and Jodie handled all other aspects of the business (while raising two children, teaching remedial and enrichment classes, developing curriculum and coaching). In 2010, the couple restored a pre-Prohibition stone building located in the beautiful St. Helena appellation, as their family's winery.

Jodie retired from teaching in June 2011 in order to assume the full-time role of General Manager for the winery. Today, Jodie and Luc continue to work together to run the multiple facets of their business. Jodie oversees Sales, Hospitality, Marketing, Events, Donations, Compliance and Human Resource. She and Luc have a Cabernet Sauvignon vineyard in Knights Valley, and they recently planted 20 acres on their new property located on the Oakville Bench. They are looking forward to further vineyard expansion on their winery's estate in St. Helena as well as future cave development.

In the few free hours which she has each week, Jodie tries to practice her flute and strives to maintain her French and Sign Language skills. She admits to having an addiction to HGTV, but mostly enjoys going to church and spending time with Luc and their two teenage children.