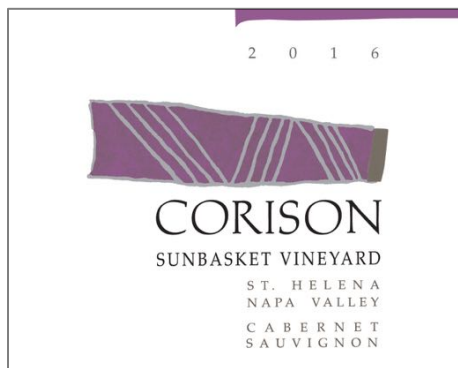


# 2016 Corison *Sunbasket Vineyard* Cabernet Sauvignon



2016 was a nearly perfect growing season with early heat in April to get the vines going, then moderate weather in July and a very cool August. Uncommonly cool nights promoted inky color and good natural acidity. A gentle late heat spell in September brought in the grapes in ideal condition.

The 2016 *Sunbasket Vineyard* Cabernet Sauvignon aromas jump out of the glass, including wildly complex Luxardo cherry, black raspberry, plums, blueberries and baking spices. Grace-notes include violet perfume and star anise. Rich and full in the mouth, the velvety but grippy tannins and bright natural acidity give it structure. Characteristic minerality completes the tasty package.

- Cathy Corison



**95** Cathy Corison's 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Sunbasket Vineyard is just fabulous. Dense, powerful and beautifully layered in the glass, this sumptuous Cabernet fills a very nice middle spot in the Corison range, as it is quite succulent and yet also far more approachable than the Kronos. Soft, curvy contours add to a sense of immediacy and

sheer allure. Open-knit and expressive, with all of the radiance that gives this site its name, the 2016 Sunbasket is outrageously delicious, even in the early going.

*Antonio Galloni, Dec 2018*

**VIEW FROM THE CELLAR** **94+** The 2016 Sunbasket Vineyard bottling of cabernet sauvignon from Cathy Corison is just a touch riper than the estate bottling, but still very civilized at 13.4 percent alcohol, and it too is an absolute cellar treasure in the making. The wine is a bit sappier on the nose than the estate bottling (as one would expect from a vineyard named Sunbasket), offering up a superb bouquet of black raspberries, black cherries, a hint of allspice, cigar smoke, tobacco leaf, an excellent base of soil tones and a discreet framing of spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, focused and rock solid at the core, with ripe, well-integrated tannins, great focus and grip and a very long, nascently complex and promising finish. This will probably drink a few years sooner than the 2016 estate bottling, but should age just as long and gracefully and it will be for future generations to decide which bottling they like better thirty or forty years down the road!

*John Gilman, July-August 2019, Issue #82*



## Top US Cabernet of 2019

**93** This cabernet is cool enough to sustain its herbal character, even as it's saturated with dark fruit and meaty enough to stand in the company of its Napa Valley neighbors. The herbal side comes across in notes of fennel, tumbling through the juicy, gravelly texture, bringing to mind a match with grilled fennel sausages. This is the third vintage of Sunbasket, a vineyard just north of Cathy Corison's winery on the west of side Highway 29, where she sourced fruit for three decades before purchasing it in 2014.

*(10/19)*



**94** Steeped black currant and blackberry fruit holds the upper hand throughout, while mocha, melted black licorice and tobacco notes fill in. This is on the riper side, but there's an inner freshness due to well-embedded, juicy acidity. Drink now through 2035. 250 cases made.

*JM, December 2019*

## JamesSuckling.com

**95** A ripe and rich wine with some bitter chocolate, as well as a ton of wild blackberries in the nose. This is a really concentrated, yet rather sleek cabernet that has very fine, powdery tannins that are so beautifully integrated that it's already really seductive. Very long, fresh and subtle finish. And there's just 13.4 per cent alcohol! Drink or hold.

*May 3, 2019*

**JEB DUNNUCK** 94 The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Sunbasket Vineyard is similarly colored yet is a different beast, with more purity, freshness, and precision. Blackcurrants, blueberries, sappy green herbs, and underbrush notes all emerge from this unquestionably old-school, medium-bodied, elegant, impeccably made Napa Cabernet Sauvignon that will keep for 2-3 decades. *jebdunnuck.com, 1/31/19*



Medium-dark purplish ruby; fragrant, ripe, spicy, red cherry, raspberry, and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of cassis and dried herbs; full body; rich, ripe, plummy, red and black fruit flavors with bright acidity, hints of cherry cola, and a velvety mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Should benefit from another three to five more years of bottle aging. **Very highly recommended.** *Volume 45, September 2019*



★★★★★ The Sunbasket Cabernet is delicious; very ripely flavored (blueberry, cassis, dark plum, blackberry), lightly oaky (tobacco, toast), full bodied, and quite supple in texture; a concentrated, moderately tannic wine with fine balance and a very persistent finish. Enjoyable now, it will only be at its best after 2025. First rate.

*Ronn Wiegand, February 2020, Issues #187-9*

## purely domestic wine report

93 The nose is a nuanced black currant, sap, java and cocoa. The palate is focused black fruit, herb and violet – pristine throughout. Drink 2019-2035 *Doug Wilder, Issue 7.4*

## International WINE REPORT

96 The 2016 Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is an absolutely magnificent showing from Cathy Corison. Displaying striking purity and sheer class, this stunning Cabernet instantly begins to impress with its mesmerizing aromatics lead by nuances of fresh red currants and ripe plums which are woven together with graphite, herbs, spring florals, dusty minerals, spices and hints of dried cherry tobacco all developing in the glass. This medium-bodied red is beautifully structured with fine, velvety tannins, that glide gracefully across the palate. It further impresses, as it demonstrates incredible overall elegance, precision and finesse, as well as wonderful concentration and depth, before finishing with a gorgeous seamless finish. Cathy Corison has crafted yet another beautiful wine from this vineyard, and even at this early stage it is nothing short of utterly spectacular. *May 2019*



...this supple, full-bodied offering is a sleek and well-polished wine that, while deep in defined varietal fruit and evocative of currants and black cherries with accents of dried herbs and a trim touch of oak, is largely free of the toughness expected in Cabernets of its age. That is not to say that it is one that needs to be drunk up in a hurry, and it will age nicely for five to ten years owing to its very fine balance and keen composition. *August 2019*