



Written by
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Corison Kronos - a vertical of Napa restraint



Elaine was treated to the unique luxury of tasting every vintage of Cathy Corison's very special single-vineyard Cabernet. Cathy herself was due to taste them the next day but Elaine was the first commentator ever to do so.

One of Napa Valley's most celebrated and respected winemakers, Cathy Corison, launched her eponymous winery in 1987 with a single wine - Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. The wine reflected Corison's commitment to elegance and restraint, a style that would soon become uncommon in her region as the power wines of the 1990s and early 2000s took over. However, even as trends changed, Corison maintained course, focusing solely on wine made with 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from vineyards planted in the well-drained, gravelly bale loam soils of the Mayacamas bench in what has since been named the St Helena AVA.

The St Helena AVA constitutes a particularly distinctive portion of the Napa Valley in that temperatures throughout the area are high enough during the day to ripen Cabernet Sauvignon adequately to make single-varietal wines of distinction. At the same time, in most vintages night-time temperatures drop below vine respiration levels, thus preserving the potential for freshness and acidity in the wine.

Famed winemaker Andre Tchelistcheff called the gravelly bale loam soils of the Mayacamas bench on Napa Valley's western side ideal for Cabernet Sauvignon. All Corison Cabernet vineyards, as well as the winery pictured below, are planted within a mile and a half of each other within these Mayacamas benchland soils in St Helena.



The soils and climate of the area are significant in that the dark red-brown soils and gravel combine with the temperatures of St Helena to offer soil warmth at the surface, which shifts how flavours evolve on the vine, compared with cooler soils such as those rich in clay. The result is that Cabernet grown throughout this area ripens without greenness - while the best wines can retain fresh herbal elements when picked for freshness.

After making wine all over the Napa Valley, in both the mountains and along the valley floor, Corison's interest in making Cabernet Sauvignon with freshness, elegance and restraint, without blending other varieties, led her to her own ideal section of the benchland in St Helena.

In 1996, Corison was able to purchase a mere 10-acre (4-ha) parcel in these benchland soils with old-vine Cabernet Sauvignon on St George rootstock. Planted in the classic widely spaced Napa Valley style on the hearty, phylloxera-resistant rootstock, the site survived changes in viticultural fashion, as well as the region's struggle with phylloxera and subsequent replanting in the 1980s and 1990s. She named the old-vine site, Kronos Vineyard, named for the Greek god of time, and immediately began making a single-vineyard bottling from Kronos, also 100% Cabernet Sauvignon. Later this spring, Corison will release the 2015 vintage of Kronos Vineyard, marking her twentieth vintage.

Corison Kronos Cabernet is notable in the Napa Valley in that it reflects a single producer with the same owner-winemaker working with the same site for more than 20 years. Many of the other heritage producers of the region have changed hands, or changed winemakers in that time. There are remarkably few single-vineyard Napa Valley bottlings with a history to rival that of Corison Kronos Cabernet.

Like the Napa Valley bottling of Corison Cabernet, Kronos reflects Cathy's elegant, restrained style. The Kronos wine consistently offers deeper fruit tones and a bit more density on the palate compared with the Napa Valley bottling. It also carries a signature perfume year to year followed by a core of dark fruits on the palate accented by vintage with blue or red fruits and

varying flowers, and always a through-line of iron elements I tend to experience as gunpowder or gunmetal.

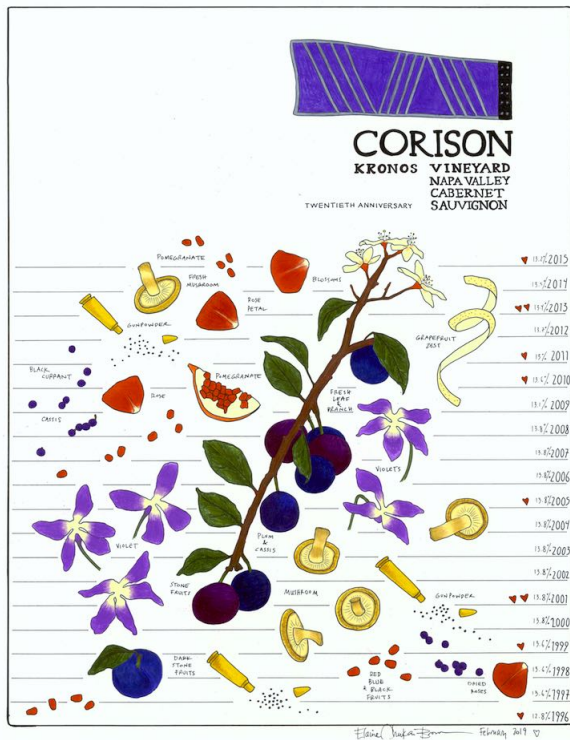
Kronos also distinguishes itself with what feels like a kind of structural illusion – while the tannin character is always quite fine-grained, ranging from an experience of fine-weave silk to sheered velvet, it also consistently seems to have plenty of structure for ageing. To put that another way, my experience with tasting Kronos is consistently that the wine feels more approachable than it likely should. The wine seems somehow simultaneously to carry abundant tannin and yet never oppresses the mouth with it.

While many producers in the Napa Valley have shifted away from the excess ripeness that brought criticism to the region previously, a new trend has appeared with producers instead seeking power in their wine through compression and compaction. That is, a more recent style of wine has emerged in Napa Cabernets and Bordeaux-variety wines that I can only describe as the winemaker trying to push as much matter into the glass as possible, like trying to get as many clothes into a rucksack as physically possible, thus making it both denser and heavier. While some of these wines are expertly made, they can also feel oppressive on the palate, as if they are leaving the work of having a pleasurable relationship with the wine entirely on the side of the consumer. The challenge is that even if the alcohol and ripeness levels are actually lower in these wines, the density of the wine often leaves them feeling more like an intellectual exercise than a joy. The lack of space in the wine also often feels as if, even though the grapes were picked earlier, the intensity of work done in the cellar has removed the space for the freshness to show.

Corison Cabernet – whether the Kronos, Napa Valley, or the newer Sunbasket single-vineyard bottling – takes a different course. They are picked fairly early but are made in such a way as to allow space in the resulting wine. One effect is a portfolio of Cabernet Sauvignons since 1987 in which not a single vintage has risen above 14% alcohol – rare in the Napa Valley. While there are of course differing degrees of finesse, complexity, or nuance by vintage and site, Corison consistently offers an impression of freshness.

The following illustration represents my personal visual representation of the Kronos vineyard Cabernet and its evolution in bottle across 20 vintages. The illustration is meant to reflect the experience of tasting the wine as a set while considering the overall shape and evolution of the wine over time. As the illustration suggests, Kronos vineyard across vintages and ageing offers a core of dark-red and dark stone fruits with varying floral accents throughout as well as earthy, mushroom and gunpowder accents. As vintage variation appears and individual vintages progress in bottle, accents of red and blue fruits, and even citrus notes, can be found. The wine also consistently offers a harmony of elements while allowing for openness on the palate.

This is the first airing of something I decided to do to commemorate the tasting of such a distinguished wine. Eventually I will have some prints made of the original illustration, a 19" x 24" hand-drawn wall piece.



Later this year Cathy will be doing a series of 20-vintage vertical tastings with her wine club, and then in San Francisco and in New York, but those will not start until late spring.

Over the last several years I have been able to taste and enjoy Kronos and Corison Cabernets from various vintages at various ages in various tasting contexts. However, the following notes reflect the first time anyone has ever tasted all 20 vintages side by side. All wines were tasted in private, on my own, at the winery from fresh bottles tasted via Coravin slowly over the course of the day.

Corison Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

- all 100% Cabernet Sauvignon
- all from 750 ml
- tasted from oldest to youngest
- 1996 to 2015
- all tasted 9 February 2019
- at Corison winery
- all prices listed as current direct from the winery, though some vintages unavailable

Wines are presented in the order tasted, old to young, but you can change this.

Order by ▼

- **Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 1996 Napa Valley** *The weather in the 1996 growing season got started, after an unusually warm winter, with plenty of rain. The combination led to early budbreak. However, spring remained cool with the rain that was scattered throughout, including during bloom, leading to lower yields. Heat during summer sped ripening in the early stages. By September, though, temperatures cooled allowing a slower pace and acid retention before harvest. Generally, clusters and crops were both smaller with lower yields throughout Napa Valley.*

Deep ruby colour with transparency through the centre, and only the faintest hints of brick accent from ageing. Star bright in the glass. Pleasing tertiary character on the nose with notes of forest floor, wet tobacco and just a hint of cigar spice. The palate is vibrant and stimulating with bright acidity that tightens the jaw slightly and carries the wine through a long finish. Delicious age on this wine that still has plenty of life left in the bottle. Notes of both red- and blackcurrant, dried roses – flower and leaf – well-integrated cigar box, and a bit of mushroom umami for a delicious close. Just a sprinkle of cracked pepper. Impressively long finish. On the lighter-bodied side for Cabernet Sauvignon, offering an open weave to the palate presentation with fine-boned tannin but there is ample flavour presence and persistence. The wine offers confidence without the need to show off through excess. A lovely tribute to the historical styles of the region's Cabernet that first brought attention to the Napa Valley. (ECB)12.8%
Drink 2006-2022

\$400 17.5

- **Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 1997 Napa Valley** *The weather in the 1997 growing season included a warm spring leading to early budbreak and bloom. Conditions from the previous vintage and through winter led to better yields in the 1997 vintage. Temperatures in summer stayed relatively moderate allowing for slow, even ripening. The 1997 vintage was lauded at the time and there are plenty of lovely wines from it. They also tend to offer a bit less complexity than the subtle but layered neighbouring 1998 vintage, and less concentration and structure than the impressive 1999 vintage.*

Deep ruby colour with a deeper colour concentration than the 1996. Star bright in the glass. More mushroom reduction on the nose with a top note of gunmetal. The nose feels more aged than the 1996, while also richer with a broader aromatic presence. The palate hits with a darker, deeper-toned character than the 1996, offering notes of black cherry, cedar and cigar box, and both crystalline and ferric earthy elements within the mushroom reduction. Cracked-pepper accents move through the finish. The 1997 vintage offers more richness, darker tones, power of presence, and apparent tannin than the 1996 while still remaining relatively light on its feet. Again, an impressively long finish. The tannin is a bit broader while still supple with a bit more size to the wine overall, and still good balancing, lengthy acidity. (ECB)13.6%
Drink 2005-2022

\$375 17

- **Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 1998 Napa Valley** *Yields were reduced again in the 1998 vintage due to wet weather in the winter and spring. Cool weather through the growing season led to a later harvest, creating a uniquely long and cool growing season overall. Clusters were generally small, as were berries, leading to a year with more concentration. The 1997 vintage was lauded at the time, and is still considered by many a historic vintage for the region. However, Corison's signature style prefers long, slow, cool ripening years like the 1998, and it seems an ideal vintage for the older vines of Kronos.*

Deep ruby with plenty of colour density through the core, and just a hint of brick accenting the colour. Star bright in the glass. Complex, nuanced aromatics with a mix of dried roses and lavender, a waft of cigar and gunmetal, and an underlying note of white mushrooms. The aromatics carry into the palate, gaining intensity and presence through the close to an impressively long finish. The tannin here is almost the texture of sheered velvet – fine-knit and pleasing texture. Quite impressive complexity, and a three-part harmony of flavour, presence and structure – the wine hits a balance of pleasure and interest while also offering a lot of life and ageing potential. More subtlety with complexity and structural depth than the 1997. I am a fan of this vintage. The wine today reflects Corison's interest in Cabernet that shows elegant restraint – full of layered perfume, detailed subtlety, and power without any need or desire to show off. (ECB)13.6%
Drink 2008-2028

\$350 18

- **Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 1999 Napa Valley** *Spring remained cool leading to a slow start for the vines. Summer remained generally moderate with one heat spike in July, and a warm spell in September. Generally, wines of this vintage offer impressive concentration, deeper-toned flavours, and still plenty of structure. There are a lot of powerhouse, overt wines from the 1999 vintage in Napa Valley. However, the weather did offer producers the opportunity to pick on freshness with still plenty of amplitude as well.* The 1999 vintage for Napa Valley Cabernet has long been one of my favourites but this is actually the first time I have tasted the Corison Kronos of that year. It is certainly one of the best I have tasted. Intense colour concentration of ruby-black fills the glass almost to its edges, moving to ruby along the edges. Star bright in the glass. Aromatics here offer plenty of depth with top notes of gunpowder and lavender, a mid-range of mixed fruits – red and black stone fruits – and underlying accents of dried roses and hints of porcini. The palate continues with the complexity and ample presence seen on the nose with impressive depth of character and persistent energy. There is a pleasing, lightly tactile mouthfeel like woven raw silk, and a good balance of mouth-watering flavour and persistent tannin presence – the mouth-watering acidity keeps the palate fresh. A persistent glittering iron earthiness here and just a bit of brooding character at the heart of the wine. Really impressed with this wine. (ECB)13.6% Drink 2010-2029
\$450 18
- **Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2000 Napa Valley** *The 2000 vintage was remarkably even, spring through harvest, with one three-day heat burst in June. For already established vineyards yields were considered average. The 2000 vintage in Napa Valley today still offers numerous reliable, well-made wines but they tend to be under-regarded thanks to the distinguished neighbouring vintages of 1999 and 2001.* Dense ruby-black core of colour reaching almost to the rim. Star bright in the glass. Much richer more fruit-forward aromatics showcasing red stone fruits spun through with cigar box and hints of mushroom. Far more tannin presence here than in previous vintages and still plenty of mouth-watering acidity but an experience of a bit less simply because the tannin dominates this vintage more than was seen in the previous examples; still an impressively long finish. There is also a strong presence of gunmetal, iron powder throughout. Notes of redcurrant and black cherry with only a hint of the floral accents seen in many of the vintages. Still quite a lovely wine and it will continue to evolve for quite a long time in bottle. (ECB)13.8% Drink 2012-2028
\$325 17.5
- **Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2001 Napa Valley** *The 2001 growing season included a mix of up-and-down weather beginning with early warmth in spring followed by a sudden chill, then followed by quite warm weather in both May and June. However, August cooled again allowing ripening to slow before harvest, giving vintners the opportunity to pick fruit based on stylistic preferences rather than merely to stay ahead of the heat or the weather. The 2001 vintage includes some of the best wines of Napa Valley.* Deep core of ruby-black colour with slightly less density than the previous couple of vintages. Star bright in the glass. Aromatics of gunmetal and white mushrooms. Bursting front of the palate carrying notes of gunmetal, lavender and violet that roll through the mouth into flavours of blackcurrant, a mix of mushrooms and a sprinkle of pepper. Lovely density of flavour and complexity here with depth and freshness. The 2001 is a bit more approachable and open than the powerhouse 1999 but not in the sense of carrying less seriousness or less structure. There is simply a more convivial character in the 2001 compared with the brooding elements of the 1999. Some wet-tobacco notes and a little more mushroom reduction appear with air through the finish. Great balance in all directions here – energy, freshness, complexity, approachability and length, all with impressive ageing potential. (ECB)13.8% Drink 2012-2038

\$400 19

- *Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2002 Napa Valley Weather remained mild through most of the 2002 growing season with warm weather arriving in September. Heat late in the season accelerated ripening and led to deeper-toned flavours in the wines from the region.*

A bit more transparency to the colour here. With a bit more of a hint of brick appearing around the rim as well. Star bright in the glass. Gunmetal and mushroom lift from the nose with accents of lavender. Mouth-watering acidity and fine-grained tannin, still offering a lightly tactile mouthfeel. Through the mouth, notes of gunmetal, black fruits, wet tobacco and a bit of cedar. A bit less interest and finesse to this vintage than others tasted, while still a delicious wine – just a bit more broad-strokes styling compared with the subtlety and finer character more typical of Kronos. (ECB)13.8% Drink 2012-2032

\$290 17

- *Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2003 Napa Valley Weather in 2003 was relatively unpredictable with unexpected heat in spring followed by record rain. Temperatures then cooled in summer, slowing ripening, until September heat suddenly accelerated ripening again putting the harvest back on a more normal timeline.*

Ruby-black core reaches to ruby edges with a hint of brick tone to them. Star bright in the glass. Aromatics of gunmetal and dried lavender lift from a body of mushroom reduction. The palate offers a nice complement of floral, fruit and savoury notes – showing a mix of red and black fruits, cedar, gunpowder and an underlying body of white mushrooms. The wine here is still incredibly fresh and vibrant. It has a bit less complexity compared with the outstanding 2001 or 1999, but is still quite a beautiful and pleasing wine. The floral notes of dried lavender and hints of violet carry all the way through an ultra-long finish. Blackcurrant and cassis begin to show themselves with air. (ECB)13.8% Drink 2012-2033

\$285 17.5

- *Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2004 Napa Valley Everything occurred early in 2004 thanks to warm temperatures in spring and heat spikes in summer, with warm temperatures all the way through harvest. Generally crops were slightly smaller than normal in the region.*

Ruby-black core rolling gradually to very lightly bricked ruby at the edges. Star bright in glass. Richer mushroom reduction and gunpowder aromatics than its neighbouring vintages. Palate-filling presence and flavour with notes of gunpowder and earth really filling the palate. Floral accents of dried lavender lift from a deep, more brooding core of dark fruits and mixed mushroom reduction. This wine is quite young still and has plenty of time left to evolve in the bottle. It is also a bit less finessed than the best of the vintages – there is more of a focus on up-front flavour here with a very slightly less robust structure. That said, the 2004 is delicious and a pleasure to drink. Will benefit from food. Opens with air to reveal notes of mixed cherries and hints of dark chocolate. (ECB)13.8% Drink 2016-2035

\$280 17+

- *Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2005 Napa Valley Spring started warm and dry until record rain then delayed bloom and fruit set. Summer remained cool with steady, dry weather allowing for slow, even ripening. Temperatures then warmed just enough to allow the completion of ripening without rushing harvest. The extended growing season led to wines with good structure and layered flavours through the region.*

Impressively dense colour concentration with a black core of colour only becoming ruby through the edges. Star bright in the glass. Cool, steely aromatics here with notes of gunpowder. Lovely density of flavour through the palate – impressive density of flavour without presenting as overly compressed – the flavours are still available and there is room in the mouth to explore them. There is more of a focus on mid-palate presence here while the

finish remains impressively long. Notes of gunpowder, hints of dark chocolate, mixed fresh fruits of blackcurrant, black cherry and a long earthy finish. This wine will age an impressively long time and is still quite young actually. It is certainly drinkable (with pleasure) now but will benefit from braised meats to help open the tannin, which is fine-grained while still firm. Even so, the acidity here is mouth-watering making the wine worth drinking now though it will certainly gain in the depth, complexity and nuance Kronos is known for with age. (ECB)13.8% Drink 2017-2038

\$275 17.5+

- *Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2006 Napa Valley* *Incredibly wet weather, winter through spring, delayed budbreak and the start of the growing season in 2006. June cleared allowing a late bloom and fruit set. Heat hit the region in July; however, thanks to the vigour in the canopy caused by the wet conditions, vines tended to remain in balance. Temperatures cooled through the rest of the growing season allowing more even ripening for the rest of the year.*

Ruby-black core reaches ruby along its edges. Star bright in the glass. Aromatics of red and black fruits accented with gunpowder carry forward into the palate with hints of cocoa, cigar box, and cedar. Fine-grained tannin carried by mouth-watering acidity into an ultra-long finish. There is plenty of presence here and the wine is only just beginning to open to show its complexity and range of flavours. It still has plenty of ageing left to do in bottle. If opened now, will benefit by being enjoyed with food. (ECB)13.8% Drink 2018-2033

\$275 17.5

- *Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 Napa Valley* *While there were weather complexities in the region, weather at flowering led to even fruit set, and then moderate temperatures through the growing season allowed for even ripening.*

Ruby-black core with a bit more transparency than the densest vintages. Star bright in the glass. Aromatics lift from the glass with lovely subtlety and a mix of floral, fruit and earth notes. The gunpowder, iron elements common to the site certainly show here. Fruits offer a mix of cherries with firm, fresh, mixed currants as well. Plenty of flavour on the palate with earthy and cedar notes. Fine-grained tannin housed in mouth-watering acidity together carry into an ultra-long finish with a cashmere mouthfeel. There is something luxurious to this wine – it is pretty, and very slightly lush, while still carrying firm fruits and earthy depth. There is certainly less structural intensity than in a vintage like the 2001 or 1999 but the structure here is fine-grained, finessed and persistent. With air it begins to show some ultra-dark chocolate notes. Quite a lovely wine. (ECB)13.8% Drink 2018-2035

\$280 17.5

- *Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2008 Napa Valley* *The second year of a drought, crops were reduced in the 2008 vintage. Heat spikes in spring also contributed to the reduced yields. Cooler temperatures in summer allowed for a long, steady growing season.*

Black core and ruby edges. Star bright in the glass. Notes of forest floor and gunpowder lift from the glass alongside a potpourri of dried roses and dried citrus. The aromatics carry into the palate with flavours of pomegranate and a mix of citrus – ruby-red grapefruit and hints of mandarin. This is a distinctly different vintage from its neighbours. Fine-grained tannin here is quite young but is fine enough to still be worth drinking now. Persistent acidity into a long finish. There is a fine-boned more delicate and lighter presence to this vintage compared with many of the others. It carries many of the notes of North American autumn with dried leaves, wet earth, red berries and potpourri. Intriguing. Will do well with food. (ECB)13.8% Drink 2016-2032

\$280 17

- *Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2009 Napa Valley* *The drought continued into 2009 but some rains late in spring helped the vines, while also delaying budbreak and bloom.*

Summer temperatures remained relatively cool while September and October were moderate, all together allowing for a long growing season.

Dark ruby core reaching to ruby edges. Star bright in the glass. Aromatics of pomegranate, dried citrus and iron accents carry into the palate on a body of fine-grained tannin and persistent acidity. Bright ruby-red grapefruit notes – juice, pith, and zest – move through the full length of the palate alongside red- and blackcurrant, pomegranate and gunpowder accents. A lovely earthy, crystalline freshness and iron powder enliven the complexity here. Lovely wine with approachability now and a fine-boned structure to continue evolving.

(ECB)13.1% Drink 2018-2032

\$260 17+

- *Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2010 Napa Valley Ample rains through 2010 broke the three-year drought and led to late budbreak and fruit set. Summer temperatures were far cooler than normal creating an incredibly long, slow growing season. Temperatures then warmed late in the season helping to finish ripening before harvest. The 2010 vintage is a good year to know your producer as the heat led to quite dark, heavier wines for some producers, while others were able to pick early enough to retain freshness.*

Black core moving to ruby around the edges. Star bright in the glass. Deep and intriguing aromatics showing hints of blooming roses, black cherry, dried ruby-red grapefruit and dark cocoa powder. Uniquely perfumed from the nose through the palate. Mixed fruits here with notes of blue and black crisp berries and mixed citrus elements with just a hint of pomegranate. Fine-grained tannin and mouth-watering acidity carry into a long finish. Lovely finesse, elegance and exotic elements all touched by the classic gunpowder, iron accent native to the site. Delicious. (ECB)13.6% Drink 2018-2037

\$250 17.5

- *Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2011 Napa Valley The 2011 vintage is considered by most producers in Napa Valley a historically challenging year with unusually cold temperatures and a strong dose of rain late in the season. The combination caused challenges for producers unprepared or unused to such conditions. Generally, there is a lighter, higher-acid profile to wines of the 2011 vintage. It is a good year to know your producer as some gorgeous wines come from the vintage but some troubled wines do as well.*
Ruby-black core with ruby edges. Star bright in the glass. Fresh lifting aromatics showing notes of cedar, dried rose and potpourri. Exuberant, exotic flavours including notes of blooming roses, mixed dried citrus, and a cascade of mixed fruits. Accents of cedar and gunmetal with a background of white mushrooms show layers of complexity. This is a lovely, harmonious wine that is simultaneously finessed, exotic and nicely balanced – fine-boned and lengthy with ultra-fine-grained, persistent tannin. There is something incredibly fine and delicate here like bone china or antique lace while also full of beauty and presence. This is the most ethereal of the vintages tasted though I don't mean by that to deny the real presence and still earthy elements throughout the wine. Lovely. A favourite. Those looking for the power and push easily possible with this variety will need to look elsewhere. This wine is all about delicacy, finesse and nuance. The size and weight of the wine is comparable to the 1996 but everything here at the same time actually feels finer boned – it would be easy to assume that implies less ageing potential for this vintage but there is such harmony of elements here that I'm inclined to give it just as much overall time as other vintages. To put that another way, the wine has the incredible elegance, and fineness of fine china, and fine china remains quite durable for decades (and as museums teach us, even longer) as long as we don't drop it. (ECB)13% Drink 2018-2034

\$225 18

- *Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2012 Napa Valley Cool temperatures and rain in spring led to healthy vines through the growing season and relief for most growers after the*

previous vintage. Warm temperatures without excess heat led to an early growing season without heat spikes. Still-cool night-time temperatures allowed generally for good acid retention in the region. Generally, wines from the 2012 vintage are quite pretty and more friendly or fruit-forward, certainly compared with the earthier complexity of the previous two vintages and the structural depth of 2013. There is also typically a bit less structural presence in wines from the 2012 vintage, probably leading to less ageing potential than its neighbouring years.

Ruby-black core to ruby edges. Star bright in the glass. Aromatics of redcurrant, black cherry and dark cocoa with hints of cedar and gunpowder. Bursting, expressive palate of mixed fruits and blooming roses – mixed citrus, crisp dark berries, redcurrant and pomegranate. Fine-grained tannin and balancing acidity. This is a lovely wine with the exotic elements of its neighbouring vintages, with plenty of presence and not quite the same degree of complexity. (ECB)13.7% Drink 2018-2033

\$205 17

- *Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2013 Napa Valley The weather in spring was perfect for flowering and fruit set, leading to ample yields for the vintage. However, a drought as well as relatively cool weather during summer means wines from the 2013 vintage have great structural depth. In general, wines from the 2013 vintage can be expected to carry a balance of fruit presence and structure – less friendly than the fruit-forward 2012 vintage, but with greater ageing potential, and more persistence and complexity through the palate. I consider 2013 one of Napa Valley's truly great vintages.*

Black core and ruby edges. Star bright in the glass. Expressive perfume on the nose with aromatics of dried roses and cedar accents – these carry into the palate alongside forest-floor elements, mixed spices of cigar box, gunpowder and mixed fruits – crisp red, blue and black fruits with mixed citrus notes. Firm blue plum, redcurrant, blackcurrant, ruby-red grapefruit and dark cocoa powder. Cocoa-powder tannin and balanced acidity. Tons of structure here with quite fine-powder tannin make the wine an impressive balance of approachable and yet with tenacious ageing potential. There is a lot of complexity here that will reveal itself with more time in bottle. Youth offers exotic perfumes currently that will deepen into the wine with age. Nicely done. (ECB)13.4% Drink 2022-2040

\$195 18.5

- *Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2014 Napa Valley Another year of drought led to less consistency in fruit set and clusters, while a warm spring helped start an earlier vintage. Berry size tended to be smaller in 2014 compared with 2012, while overall yields in the region were still ample. The combination means, generally speaking, wines from 2014 offer a lot of the pretty, fruit-forward presence of the 2012 vintage with a bit more structure, though not the structural depth of the 2013s.*

Ruby black core to lighter ruby edges. Star bright in the glass. Cedar and white mushroom, dried citrus, and hints of gunpowder on the nose. Juicy, mouth-watering palate with plenty of flavour. Exotic perfume and fruits carry from nose to palate. A nice wine with good depth though a bit broader strokes compared with the incredible finesse and complexity of the 2013. Still quite young and will do well with time in bottle. Persistent tannin and balanced acidity carry into a very long finish. (ECB)13.5% Drink 2025-2036

\$185 17.5

- *Corison, Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2015 Napa Valley Wet weather in spring during 2015 led to incredibly small crops throughout the region. Tiny yields and warm temperatures during the growing season combined to create a vintage of incredible concentration and plenty of structure. Generally, wines from Napa Valley have good complexity and structural presence for ageing, though the vintage is likely to be preferred by those looking for more restraint rather than lushness.*

Ruby-black core to ruby edges. Star bright in the glass. Pretty aromatics of dried lavender, gunpowder, dried roses, and cedar carry into the palate. Nice balance of structure to flavour here makes it feel closer to the 2013 than the 2014 in balance and overall form. There is just a bit more complexity and finesse to the 2013 compared with this wine but everything here is wonderfully done. A lovely wine. Ample, powder-fine tannin mean this vintage again strikes that balance of being more approachable than the tannin would likely imply while having sufficient tannin load to evolve quite well and for a long time in bottle. Accents of exotic perfume, blooming roses, ruby-red grapefruit and pomelo, gunpowder and iron, and crystalline earthiness through a long finish. Wonderful vintage. Just a bit of chocolate-cherry liqueur here currently will deepen and evolve with time in bottle. While the wine offers quite a bit now it will reveal far more with age. (ECB)13.2% Drink 2025-2042

\$195 17.5+