

2019 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon



Summer and fall were so cool in 2019 that we picked fully two weeks later than we usually do, the perfect setup for a great vintage. Those cool days allowed long hang-time, resulting in complex, intense flavors, and the cold nights promoted inky color and balancing natural acidity.

The entire spectrum of Cabernet Sauvignon fruit flavors is present and accounted for, from red cherries and raspberries through blueberries, to purple plums, black cassis and marionberries, for remarkable complexity. A floral perfume of dried roses, violets and lavender is already jumping out of the glass. Signature Rutherford Dust minerality joins baking spices, notes of cocoa, dried thyme, and a whiff of tar and anise. Tannins that are firm and grippy, though velvety, lend structure and mouthfeel. It is going to be a lot of fun watching this wine over time.

~ Cathy Corison



Top 100 Wines of 2022

96 This wine is, in fact, an idealized version of (Cathy Corison's) benchmark cabernet sauvignon, holding on to the elegance she regularly achieves, while adding a luscious textural beauty that more often comes from bottle age. James Conley of NYC's *Keen's Chophouse* found the aroma suggested a more delicate wine than the density and extract this one carries in its "cabernet grape tannins and intriguing, lifted fruit. If someone said, 'I love Napa, but show me what I'm missing.' I'd say, 'Well, try this.'" Warm and explosive in its energy, this wine carries an imprint of the benchmark soils in the play of darkness and light, in the detailed tannins that make you crave another taste.

Joshua Greene, Fall 2022



93 The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon is full of charm. It offers all of the natural intensity of the year, with bright acids that keep the flavors bright. Sweet red cherry, plum, cedar, tobacco and spice all build effortlessly. This open-knit yet classically built Cabernet is likely to offer a wide window of drinkability over the next 15-20 years. As always, Cathy Corison's Napa Valley Cabernet is a blend of three sites in St. Helena.

Antonio Galloni, October 2021



94 A very fresh, floral-laced style, offering a bright beam of cassis and plum gelée laced with flashes of violet, hibiscus and rose petal. Nicely grounded through the finish, with alder and warm earth hints filling in. Approachable, but this has more to show in time.

James Molesworth, August 2022



94 Alluring aromas of dark cassis, graphite, cedar and wild herbs. It has a striking depth with layered flavours and texture, and while restrained now it is incredibly well-built and in need of time in the cellar to fully shine. Reveals subtle hints of fresh black and blue berries, currants and dried herbs tinged with red florals. Finishes with polish, energy and poise.

Jonathan Cristaldi, 12 June 2022



95 The nose is lavish dark plum, blackberry and violet. The palate entry is classic Corison; vibrant restraint with defined black fruit and notes of cranberry and cherry leading to a core of tea, firm blackberry with youthful acidity.

Doug Wilder, free run juice, May 8, 2022



96 – Cellar Selection - Savory and complicated in saline, woody notes of cedar and dry tannin, this old-school wine is dark and structured, aged 20 months in French oak, half of it new. Brooding black fruit and clove give it an edgy richness that is restrained and balanced by underlying acidity.

Virginie Boone, 10/1/22



🌟🌟🌟 **95** Among the most mannerly of the leading Cabernets in California, this bottling has always been noted for its promise to grow over time, and this vintage is no exception... There are balance, depth and layers of fruit played against the quality

of sinew that is never gruff or coarse yet demands time in the cellar... The wine will simply get better and better for a decade and more. And that is a proposition we will take.

August 2022

Jancis Robinson

Transparent crimson with a pale rim – looks quite different from the Napa norm! Really subtle 'claret' nose with the same sort of balsam notes and appetising appeal as many of the Monte Bellos I tasted recently. Very refreshing and restrained – more restrained than the average red bordeaux nowadays. Fine tannins and notable acidity. Approachable – just – but clearly has quite a future. Neat, long finish. A brave wine!

Jancis Robinson, 9 Nov 2022

JAMES SUCKLING.COM

94 A perfumed nose of blackberries, dark cherries, cedar, cocoa and nutmeg. Violets too. Medium body with fine tannins and bright acidity. Fresh and refined with a bright core of wild fruit and a long, flavorful finish. Drink or hold.

November 4, 2021

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

95 The 2019 vintage of the Napa Valley bottling of Cabernet Sauvignon from Cathy Corison will be released in the autumn of this year and will be well worth keeping an eye out for once it is available, as it is going to be stellar. The wine comes in at 13.8 percent and offers up an absolutely classical, Rutherford Bench nose of red and black cherries, cigar wrapper, a hint of eucalyptus, Rutherford Dust soil tones, peonies and nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, focused and nascently complex, with superb mid-palate depth, great soil signature, fine-grained tannins and impeccable balance on the long, focused and utterly seamless finish. This wine is a synthesis of old school aesthetic cabernet sensibilities and the refined touch of a winemaker with plenty of experience to get everything just absolutely perfect!

John Gilman, Issue #98, March-April 2022



Top 100 Wines of 2022

95 The brilliant 2019 Corison 'Napa Valley' Cabernet Sauvignon is a powerful effort that really needs an hour of air prior to consuming. Once aroused this reveals dark currant and espresso bean aromas alongside suggestions of kirsch cordial and wet stone with black florals. The palate is utterly seamless throughout the drinking experience with no rough edges. Finishing long with graphite and black fruits, this downright delicious, weightless effort will surely live on for another two decades.

owenbargreen.com, May 23, 2022

vinography

I don't know what to say about her 2019 vintage effort other than it blew me away. Her 2019 St. Helena Cabernet Sauvignon may well be the best-tasting new release I've ever had from the winery. It offers an incredible aromatic landscape in the glass while delivering a spectacular level of elegance and finesse on the palate.

Dark garnet in the glass, this wine smells of flowers, dark ripe plums, and blackcurrants. In the mouth, gorgeously supple, velvety tannins wrap around a core of black cherry and cassis fruit that has a wonderful purity to it. Hints of graphite and dried flowers float across the palate, as bright acidity keeps the fruit juicy and the saliva flowing. Outstanding. The incarnation of elegance, and largely untouchable by most other Napa Cabernet. 13.8% alcohol. Score: between 9.5 and 10.

Alder Yarrow, vinography.com, 6/19/22

terroir REVIEW

Cathy Corison's 2019 Napa Valley Cabernet, just released, is deep, brilliant ruby-purple and, as with all of her wines, is highly perfumed, scented with cherries, licorice, woody spice, plum. It's light textured, the palate ripe and rounded, the tannins powdery, like talc or sanded canvas, with flavors that feel purpled: violets, black cherry, black plums. The acidity articulates the wine, and the finish is juicy and long. This wine is really lit up, animated and delicious now, but ten or even twenty years will certainly embroider it.

Meg Maker, January 1, 2023



93 Delicate herbal shadings accent the cassis notes on the nose of Corison's 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon. It's classic Corison, balanced and concentrated without being showy or weighty, silky in feel, with a long, lingering finish and two decades of ageability.

Joe Czerwinski, 15 Sept, 2022

95 The 2019 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is simply brilliant. It begins with gorgeous aromatics of currants and dark cherries which are woven together with pencil shavings, spring florals, exotic spices and wild herbs, which all leap from the glass. On the palate this is medium to full-bodied, beautifully structured and impeccably balanced. It displays remarkable freshness and purity of fruit with incredible precision. While this is already absolutely outstanding, Corison has a track record for producing exceptionally age-worthy wines, and this should be no exception. Cathy Corison is a true artist in winemaking, and the 2019 is one of the most impressive of the 'Napa Valley' bottling that I can recall. If you are a fan of Corison wines, do not miss this one. *Joe D'Angelo, May 2022*

JEB DUNNUCK **92** Lots of dark, blackcurrants, cassis, darker chocolate, and hints of violets emerge from the 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon, a medium to full-bodied, beautifully balanced St. Helena Napa Cabernet Sauvignon offering nicely integrated acidity, terrific balance, and a great finish. This quintessential Cathy Corison Cabernet shines on all accounts. It's going to evolve for two decades.

jebdunnuck.com, 3/10/22



Dan Berger on Wine – Wine of the Week: 2019 Corison Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

Corison simply understands Cab as well as anyone who ever has. She crafts her wines with the balance and structure that's required for any fine red wine to go the distance. How far down the road can they go? That's anyone's guess; she has been in the business for 35 years at her present site, and every one of her Cabs is still alive and kicking...

This young wine from the excellent 2019 harvest has precise Cabernet character, which includes some dried herbs, cherries and several other savory aspects of the variety that you rarely see any more, with minor exceptions. The balance is near-perfect with an alcohol that's under 14%... *Dan Berger, July 14, 2022*