

2022 Helios Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Franc



The weather during most of the ripening season was nearly perfect in 2022, with long, cool days and chilly nighttime temperatures. The Cabernet Franc was picked on 3 September, days before the notorious heat spell began that year. A small crop of tiny, delicious berries was the result.

Typical Cabernet Franc dried herbs and hay notes join dried raspberry, tart cherry, plum and blackberry fruit in the aromas and flavors, with a lovely violet perfume and whispers of peppermint and cedar on the nose. Only four barrels were produced.

~ Cathy Corison



93 The 2022 Cabernet Franc Helios Sunbasket Vineyard is a pretty bold, juicy wine. All of this fruit came off before the big Labor Day heat spike, yet the 2022 shows quite a bit of baby fat wrapped around the notable varietal character that is such a signature here. Succulent dark cherry, plum, new leather, incense, licorice and cedar flesh out

beautifully. Today, the 2022 looks like quite an extrovert, but it was also bottled just a few months before this tasting. It's a gorgeous wine by any measure.

Antonio Galloni, Vinous, December 2024

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

95 The 2022 Cabernet Franc “Helios Sunbasket Vineyard” bottling from Cathy Corison comes in beautifully low octane in this vintage, tipping the scales at 12.3 percent. I have to assume that this was one vineyard that was ready to pick before the heat spike arrived on Labor Day. The wine delivers a beautiful aromatic constellation of sappy cassis and dark berry fruit, cigar ash, a hint of tree bark, espresso, dark soil tones, a gentle array of spice tones redolent of fresh nutmeg and a very suave framing of cedary new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, complex and tangy, with a lovely core of fruit, great soil transparency and grip, ripe tannins and a long, nascently complex and seamlessly balanced finish. This is stunning juice in the making!

John Gilman, View from the Cellar, May-June 2024, #111



94 Vibrant on the nose, this offers ripe dark and blue berries... chocolate and blue flowers. The juicy and bright palate has full body and compact, velvety tannins. Concentrated with lots of mature dark fruit, it remains vivid and focused. Solid and structured.

James Suckling, jamesuckling.com, March 17, 2025

vinography

Medium to dark garnet in the glass with a faint haze, this wine smells of crushed nuts, plums, and cherries. In the mouth, juicy cherry and plum flavors are shot through with brambly cedar, chopped green herbs, and dried flowers. Faint fleecy tannins coat the mouth, and add structure as excellent acidity keeps things juicy and fresh on the palate. Notes of chopped herbs, including mint, linger in the finish with a whisper of sweet oak. 12.3% alcohol. Score: **between 9 and 9.5.**

Alder Yarrow, Vinography.com, 4/20/25