

2021 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon



In 2021, a small crop of tiny, tasty berries was the result of major drought, cool weather at flowering in May, and a heat spike in June. Then moderate temperatures throughout the ripening season brought the fruit to balanced perfection. It's my 35th vintage!

This wine is so pretty, with dried rose, violet and peony perfume. It's joined by juicy bright red cherry, raspberry and darker plum, cassis and blackberry fruit notes. Dust, baking spices and hints of chocolate integrate with velvety tannins in seamless harmony. Mouthwatering natural acidity lends snappy balance and the flavors go on and on in the finish.
~ Cathy Corison

Decanter

97 A totally seductive, fresh, and vibrant 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from Cathy Corison showcasing fragrant black cherry and blue fruit aromatics, a hint of liquorice and incense, and toasty cedarwood. Medium to full-bodied, with silky boysenberry fruit, satiny tannins, a spine of tantalising acidity, and a long mineral-rich finish lifted by tangerine peel and grapefruit zest. Aged 20 months in French oak barrels, of which 50% were new. The winery has been a Napa staple almost since opening its doors in 1987.
Jonathan Cristaldi, Decanter Magazine, 12 May 2024

Wine Spectator

95 This takes an elegant approach, offering racy, refined notes of iris, violet, hibiscus and mulberry that stay focused and fresh from start to finish, flashing light mineral and anise accents along the way. The finish glistens with purity, and the precision should allow this to evolve nicely in the cellar. Drink now through 2040.

James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, August 14, 2024



All the elements are so well balanced.

93 The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley) is gorgeous. Medium in body and super-expressive, the 2021 is a classic Cathy Corison wine. Pipe tobacco, cedar, crushed leaves and earthy tones all run through this wonderfully nuanced Cabernet Sauvignon. Readers will find an exquisite, alluring old-school Napa Cabernet that delivers the goods, big time.

Antonio Galloni, Vinous – explore all things wine, December 2023

vinography

(Cathy's) Cabernet Sauvignon may be one of the best she's ever made, though we'll need to wait 20 years to be completely sure, as I think it will improve for at least that long. It's truly a tremendous wine, one that deftly marries power and depth with elegance and finesse. I can't recommend it highly enough.

Dark garnet in the glass, this wine smells of black cherry, cassis, herbs, and dark earth. In the mouth, gorgeously seamless flavors of black cherry, earth, licorice, blackcurrant, and dried flowers are wrapped in a muscular, fleecy blanket of fine-grained tannins. Fantastic acidity and incredible length, this is a wine that is going to last for decades. Poised, elegant, deep, and profound. 13.6% alcohol. Score: between **9.5** and **10**.

Alder Yarrow, Vinography.com, 4/28/24

WINE ENTHUSIAST

96 A demonstration of restraint with depth focused on complexity, length, and poise. This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon delivers flavors of cedar, firm black plum, and the lightest touch of coffee, lifted by aromatics of crushed fennel seed and hints of pink grapefruit. Tannins are powdery fine while persistent, carried into a long finish by mouthwatering acidity. *Elaine Chukan Brown, Wine Enthusiast Magazine, July 2024*



94 **** Notes of blackberries and forest berries, black olives, cedar and wet earth. Full-bodied, very fine and polished, with firm, chalky tannins and crunchy dark fruit that is fresh and succulent. Hints of crushed stone at the end.

jamesuckling.com, 13 March, 2024



★★★★★ Splendid 2021 Corison Cabernet Sauvignon, in a rich, vibrant style. It has wonderful aroma and flavor (blueberry, cherry, black tea, herbs, black currant, violet, sweet pepper, oak), good concentration, great balance, well integrated tannin, and a very long, lingering finish. A remarkable wine that can be enjoyed now (because of the depth and quality of its fruit), but also has a long cellar life ahead. *Ronn Wiegand, Restaurant Wine, Issues #216-221, June 2025*

Robb Report

The 7 Best Cabernet Sauvignons from Napa Valley's St. Helena AVA

(The) 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon has aromas of anise, cedar, tobacco leaf, and black currant. It is both elegant and restrained on the palate with flavors of dried herbs, violet, black raspberry, red plum, and black cherry. It's drinking nicely right now but it wouldn't hurt to lay a few bottles down for future enjoyment.

Mike DeSimone and Jeff Jenssen, Robb Report, April 17, 2025

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

95 (The) 2021 cabernet sauvignon is another brilliant wine in the long line of brilliant wines from Cathy, coming in at 13.6 percent octane and delivering a stunning young aromatic constellation of cassis, sweet dark berries, tobacco leaf, a complex base of Rutherford Dust soil tones, cigar ash and a suave foundation of new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, focused and full-bodied, with a lovely core of fruit, fine soil signature and grip, fine-grained, buried tannins and stunning balance on the long, complex and utterly seamless finish.

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



95 The 2021 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is another brilliant release from Corison.

Offering incredibly perfumed aromas of blackberries and cassis, which are woven together with fresh cut florals, spices, sage, crushed gravel and graphite nuances that all take shape. The palate is medium to full-bodied and beautifully structured with polished tannins that firmly wrap its core. It goes on to display outstanding overall precision and balance with wonderful purity and a remarkable sense of freshness that continues through the long finish. This is a simply stunning wine from Cathy Corison that is already a pleasure to approach now, but is also destined for a marvelous future ahead.

Joe D'Angelo, International Wine Report, April 2024



96 A gorgeous wine from a great vintage, the 2021 Corison 'Napa Valley' Cabernet Sauvignon is already beautifully evolved right now. On the nose this displays tar, anise and beautiful black rose petals, with a graphite edge. The palate is soft and refined with a seamless texture. Layers of dense black and blue fruits parade with stony minerals, espresso grounds and loamy soils. A total knockout, enjoy this beautiful wine over the next twenty years.

owenbargreen.com, April 27, 2023



Fresh and balanced. Generous aromas of black currant, gravel, caramel, vanilla, and mocha. Long palate with black currant, black cherry, mineral buoyed by acidity, and framed by dusty texture.

Slow Wine Guide, 2025



94 Deep garnet-purple colored, the 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon needs a little shaking to bring out the notes of fresh blackcurrants, raspberries, and kirsch, followed by hints of spearmint, charcoal, and bay leaves. The medium-bodied palate is vibrant and intense with fresh red and black berry layers and a grainy texture, finishing with a burst of freshness and an herbal lift.

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent, January 16, 2025

JEB DUNNUCK

93 The appellation 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon is outstanding and certainly plays in the fresher, classic, elegant style favored by this estate. Juicy blue fruits, violets, cassis, and spicy oak all define the aromatics, and it has a medium-bodied, elegant mouthfeel, nicely integrated tannins, and outstanding length.

Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, 1/8/25



92 Made in her signature classic, restrained style, Cathy Corison's 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon boasts vibrant scents of cassis and black cherries while remaining medium-bodied, streamlined and silky on the palate. It's reasonably tannic, with fine-grained, gently dusty tannins on the finish, but also long and mouthwatering.

Joe Czerwinski, Wine Advocate, 2/27/25



[The 30 Best Cabernet Sauvignons for 2025](#)

Keith Beavers, VinePair, March 25, 2025

[The 7 Best Red Wines to Gift this Holiday – Best Splurge](#)

Hannah Staab, VinePair, Dec 2, 2025

[The 50 Best Wines of 2025 - #5](#)

94 Legendary winegrower Cathy Corison has been making wine in the Napa Valley since the mid-'80s. Corison's style is beloved for its balance between power and elegance, showing off the sunny, ripe character of the Napa Valley while still practicing restraint. The winery's flagship Cabernet Sauvignon brings aromas of anise, wild berries, forest floor, and flecks of pepper. Juicy cherries and plums intertwine with hints of cacao nibs, and spice across the deep, grippy palate. In this wine's 35th vintage, Corison proves again why it's a standout Napa Cabernet year after year.

VinePair Staff, VinePair, November 12, 2025



A darker-fruited nose leads to a very lifted wine. '21 was a cooler vintage, and those are the years when Corison particularly shines in relation to her peers. Red berries-raspberries, even—and remarkable lift and elegance, while still being identifiably Cabernet.

Jon Fine, The New Wine Review, March 4, 2025