

## 2016 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon



Warm weather in April kick-started the nearly perfect season in 2016 on the early side, followed by a moderate July and very cool August. Typical of our autumn weather, a gentle, late heat spell brought the vintage home. There was nary a day over 100F from *veraison* through harvest, my favorite kind of season. Even more important than daytime highs, nighttime lows were downright cold all summer, preserving good natural acidity.

The 2016 reminds me of the 2014 with the volume turned up a bit. Redolent with bright red currant, blueberry, tart cherry and darker plums, cassis and blackberry fruit, it is wildly complex. The fruit aromatics are complexed by baking spices and floral notes including dried rose petals and violets. Varietal dried herbs add yet another dimension. An alluring *yin* of minerality and snappy natural acidity play off against the *yang* of a broad, luscious mouthfeel.

~ Cathy Corison

**VIEW FROM THE CELLAR** 95 The bouquet is classic, wafting from the glass in a complex and very classy blend of black cherries, sweet dark berries, Cuban cigar wrapper, Rutherford dust, a deft framing of cedary oak and just a hint of eucalyptus in the upper register. On the palate the wine is extremely pure and focused, full-bodied and beautifully bound up in its sophisticated structural chassis, with a gorgeous core of fruit, great soil signature, ripe, buried tannins and superb length and grip on the seamlessly balanced finish. This is stunning juice...

*John Gilman, View from the Cellar, July-August 2019, #82*

**WINE ENTHUSIAST** 95 – Cellar Selection ...serious wine, complex and integrated, with intriguing aspects of leather, earth and truffle. Soft and supple, it shows a spiciness of clove and tart red raspberry and cassis, deliciously memorable in every way.

*Wine Enthusiast, 9/1/19*



92 The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley) is bold, luscious and gracious, all in the mid-weight style that is such a signature of Cathy Corison's Cabernets. Floral overtones add freshness to this super-expressive Cabernet Sauvignon. Rose petal, lavender, licorice, mint and dark cherry fruit get an extra kick of vibrancy from the natural brightness of the year. What a gorgeous wine this is.

*Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Dec 2018*



...showing a certain, understated sense of complexity to its lightly perfumed aromas of currants, sweet oak and loam, this medium-full-bodied effort steers away from sinewy strength and forceful ripeness, and it shows a lighter hand throughout.

It is a Cabernet that aims for refinement above all else, and, echoing its like-minded cellarmate from the Sunbasket Vineyard, it can be enjoyed in its youth but is balanced to keep comfortably for a good many years.

*Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine, August 2019*



17+ Medium-deep ruby colour. Vibrant aromas of red and black cherries, fresh blackcurrant and savoury spices. Very enticing. Great purity on the palate, with weightless intensity of dark fruit and harmonious acidity. The tannins are soft and very refined, gently framing the fruit. Cool and well-proportioned, this is very moreish and has more than a hint of the Old World about it.

*TP, jancisrobinson.com, 13 Nov 2019*

## WALL STREET JOURNAL

Cathy Corison has quietly built one of the best track records for producing top Napa Cabernet over several decades. This subtle, polished and notably low-alcohol (13%) Cabernet is a shining star in the Napa firmament.

*Lettie Teague, Wall Street Journal, January 30, 2020*

**Bloomberg** "Nevertheless, she persisted," is how I think of Napa's Cathy Corison. Under her own label, she's made elegant cabernets, even when cult cabs got the buzz. This complex cuvée features pure cassis, plum, and dried herb flavors and aromas and a suave, silky texture.

*Elin McCoy, Bloomberg, July 1, 2020*

**93** Fresh in feel, with red currant, raspberry and damson plum fruit, laced with floral hints and backed by a subtle mineral edge on the finish. Offers a pure, streamlined character. Well done. *James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, December 2019*

**Dan Berger: On Wine** I offer an example of greatness. It's one of the Napa Valley's most superb Cabs — Cathy Corison's eponymous 2016 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon just released... I couldn't have said it better (than what) Cathy says on her website, except perhaps to add that the dried herbs are what make this wine such a winner for me, since we got hints of thyme, wet earth, olive, and sage along with glorious fruit in a really dry wine.

*Napa Valley Register, Nov 14, 2019*



Medium- dark purplish ruby; attractive, deep, ripe, cassis and blackberry fruit aroma with earthy notes and hints of mocha and baking spice; full body; rich, ripe, cedary, textured, red and black fruit flavors with notes of dried herbs; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. **Very highly recommended.**

*Nick Ponomareff, California Grapevine, Vol. 45, May 2019*

**purely domestic wine report 93** The nose is a fresh, pure lanolin and blossom of lilac, jasmine and violet. The palate is stunningly gorgeous on entry rising to a mid-palate of graphite, hard blackberry and notes of earth and tobacco.

*Doug Wilder, purely domestic wine report, Issue 7.4*



★★★★ The Napa Valley is a concentrated, stylish Cabernet with fine aging potential. It is fragrant, full bodied, supple, and moderately tannic; a wine with excellent balance, fine aromas/flavors (black currant, blackberry, cherry, herbs, toasty oak, cedar), and a long, harmonious finish.

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

**JamesSuckling.com 93** This has a great cassis and sour-cherry nose with hints of lilacs, wet stones and licorice. Quite powerful, but restrained and elegant, this medium-bodied Napa cab has impeccable balance with a very long, clean and dry finish that pulls you back to the glass for more. A great food-wine with just 13.1 percent alcohol! Drink or hold.

*James Suckling, May 3, 2019*

**JEB DUNNUCK 91** This classic effort has lots of cassis, leafy herbs, some damp earth, and sappy spring flower aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied, beautifully balanced, and downright elegant... terrific purity, balance, and length. I'd happily drink bottles over the coming decade or more.

*jebdunnuck.com, 1/31/19*

**Vinography** ...when I (drink Napa Cabernet) I make sure it's the good stuff and it doesn't get much better than @corisonwinery. Earth, lavender and black current aromas give way to fantastically juicy and elegant black cherry, tobacco leaf, dried herbs and flowers, and a touch of pencil lead. Gorgeously balanced, with fine-grained, restrained tannins. Delicious...

*Alder Yarrow, Vinography post on Instagram, 4/21/21*



**93** The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon from Cathy Corison is absolutely beautiful. All about elegance and finesse, this begins with inviting aromas of red currants and dark cherries woven together with pencil shavings, spring flowers, herbs and wet gravel all developing in the glass. This possesses a gorgeous medium body, with silky tannins that glide effortlessly across the palate. It goes on to display wonderful precision and balance with vibrant acidity keeping it fresh and lively through the sleek finish. The 2016 is already drinking extremely well at this early stage, and should continue to age beautifully in bottle for years to come.

*Joe D'Angelo, International Wine Report, May 2019*



The wine is fragrant of black brambly fruits and cassis with top notes of sandalwood, vanilla, and star anise. The palate is sueded, with earthy flavors of black plum, fennel, and brushy herbs. The wine is the most youthful and grippy of the flight, a dark wine with a woody core.

*Meg Maker, Terroir Review, June 21, 2020*



**95** The 2016 Corison Cabernet Sauvignon is a thrilling, seamless wine that is both powerful and elegant. On the nose there are dark currants woven together with shades of graphite, tobacco leaf and silty soil that all meld in the glass. The palate has wonderful weight and depth, yet has a seamless factor that makes this effortlessly glide across the mid-palate. Layers of boysenberry preserves and coffee grounds come together with suggestions of creme de cassis and tar on the palate. Highly refined, this memorable effort will cellar well for decades to come. *OwenBargreen.com, June 15, 2020*



**97** As always, a meticulously structured offering from Cathy Corison, focused on classic varietal aromas and flavors, not jagged or overblown in any way. Blackberry, currants, mild dried herbs and gentle oak spice are already beautifully integrated, so much so that you'll be tempted to get right into the case. But as with all of the Corison vintages, you'll want to hold some into the future – they turn into elegant ladies, always reflecting the proprietor herself. Another beautiful personal statement of restraint and insight. *Rich Cook, winereviewonline.com, Dec 10, 2019*

**NorCal Wine 94** Even tasting blind, the intriguing, savory nose of perfumed dark flowers, subtle black pepper, leather, black fruit, and bay leaf whispered Corison in my ear. The medium-bodied palate is disciplined and juicy with Old World sophistication. Its toothsome tannins are soft on the attack, then firm up to balance the mouthwatering, ripe-tangy fruit. The wine develops with air, but maintains its generally savory demeanor. (BTW, Cathy doesn't recommend decanting, preferring to let them evolve in the glass.) This wine's drinking very well now, but has the fruit, acidity, and tannins to age a good, long while. Drink now through 2035+. *Fred Swan, fredswan.wine, January 2, 2020*



From an excellent vintage, Cathy Corison crafted a more than excellent wine in the Corison Cellars Cabernet Sauvignon 2016, St. Helena, an embodiment of both intensity and generosity. The color is a dark but radiant ruby-magenta; the classic bouquet offers ripe red and black cherries and currants infused with notes of cedar and wood-smoke, sage and rosemary (with a touch of the latter's feral resinous quality), hints of iodine and mint, with undertones of heather, dusty graphite and underbrush; it's no exaggeration to say that the texture and structure of this cabernet are downright beautiful — sleek, lithe, supple, mouth-filling, with loamy red and black fruit flavors framed by suede-like tannins and granitic minerality, yet elegant and suave; the whole package is perfectly balanced, poised for drinking now, if you wish, yet capable of aging through 2032 to '36. A masterpiece from a master of Napa Valley cabernet. **Exceptional.**

*Frederic Koepfel, biggerthanyourhead.net, 16 Dec, 2019*



**94** 2016 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon – Very purple for a Napa cab, and a wine that takes on weight and depth the longer it is exposed to air. The nose is big and savory with tomato leaf, cigar tobacco, well-seasoned leather, blackberry, stewed blueberry, and plum. Medium plus in body with really smooth and fine tannin. The acid is well-tuned and integrated. Quite dense, but laser focused and silky. Mulled cherry/blackberry pie and a bit savory, it offers mountain strawberry, saline, tomato vine, and dried basil. Super tasty right now, but the layers need time to unravel. Incredibly only 13.1 ABV. I'd sit on this for five to seven years and then drink over the following ten.

*Aaron Menenberg, goodvitis.com, Nov. 14, 2021*



Undeterred, Cathy Corison has stuck to her line for more than three decades: to produce wines that combine power with finesse that only reveal themselves with the second sip, on closer inspection. Timeless beauties that do not draw attention to themselves, but convince with fine nuances and great aging potential. 2016 is an underestimated vintage because it is cooler. With only 13.1 percent alcohol, fine fruit and restrained use of wood, while having a deep structure and precisely dosed tannins, this is great stuff of international class. *Jossi Loibl, WeinKenner.de, December 2021*



**95** Cathy Corison's 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon evokes crème de cassis and dark cherry fruit with tobacco leaf and cedar nuances. It's well-proportioned on the palate with a deep, focused core, impressive mid-palate breadth, and tongue-coating tannins. Super impressive in its youth, it should age beautifully.

*Don Winkler, International Wine Review, i-winereview.com, January 27, 2020*