

# 2017 Corison *Kronos Vineyard* Cabernet Sauvignon



Abundant winter rains got 2017 off to a great start, breaking the drought. July and August were unseasonably cool, perfect for color and flavor development and the retention of terrific natural acidity. Then as harvest began, heat in early September turned the vintage into a sprint, with the entire harvest picked over nine consecutive days. We are grateful that all our grapes were in weeks before the fires, fermented and resting safely in barrels.

The 2017 is brighter and less brooding than typical Kronos vintages in their youth, with luscious, juicy cassis, luxardo cherry, blueberry and raspberry fruit. Signature blackberry pie flavors, complete with baking spices, proclaim a sense of place. Approachable now, the tannins provide a velvet grip. Grace notes include toasted almonds and hints of peppermint. Firm acidity and mineral verve keep it lively. Violets and dried rose petals are already perfuming the aromas. ~ *Cathy Corison*

## Reviews from our 25-Year Kronos Retrospective Tasting:

### vinography

#### The Majesty of Time: 25 Years of Corison's Kronos Cabernet

Very dark garnet in the glass, this wine is extremely perfumed with soaring floral aromatics over black cherry and blackcurrant fruit. In the mouth, incredibly intense acidity brings blackcurrant and blueberry flavors alive with vibrant electricity as floral notes layer over the top, and the whole mouth is coated with dusty, powdery tannins. Seamless, effortless, and shimmering. 13.9% alcohol. 700 cases made. "Finally we had some rain again this year," says Corison. Score: around **10**.

*Alder Yarrow, Vinography, December 3, 2024*

### Decanter

**95** Kronos showcased a red-fruited profile with bright strawberries, red liquorice, cinnamon notes, red florals, and a hint of agave nectar. Medium to full-bodied, with assertive tannins that grip tightly and will benefit from another 3–5 years to soften. Structurally sound and full of potential, this is a vintage to cellar.

*Jonathan Cristaldi, Decanter, 27 Oct, 2024*

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## Reviews Upon Release:



**93+** The 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Kronos Vineyard is extremely expressive, even in the early going, with plenty of the mid-palate sweetness and raciness that is such a signature of the site. The brutal heat notwithstanding, the Kronos has retained many of its classic flavor and texture signatures. Tobacco, leather, spice, game, wild cherry, licorice and lavender add striking shades of nuance. I can't wait to taste it with some bottle age. The distinctive character of these vines planted in 1971 on St. George rootstock really comes through. Cathy Corison's Kronos Cabernet is one of the few 2017s that has real upside.

*Antonio Galloni, Vinous – explore all things wine, January 2020*

### JamesSuckling.com

**Top 100 US Wines in 2020** **96** Beautiful blueberry and lavender aromas. Violets, too. So perfumed. Medium to full body and very fine, focused tannins. Purity and beauty. Pretty length.

*Jamessuckling.com, November 30, 2020*

### VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

**95** The 2017 Kronos Vineyard bottling of cabernet sauvignon from Cathy Corison is a superb bottle in the making. This vintage comes in at 13.9 percent octane and delivers a beautifully pure and youthfully complex bouquet of red and black cherries, cigar smoke, Rutherford Dust, a hint of the mintiness to come, a superb base of soil tones and cedary oak. On the palate the wine is refined, full-bodied and seamlessly balanced, with an excellent core and soil signature, ripe, fine-grained tannins and a long, poised and still quite tightly-knit finish. This is a thoroughbred...

*John Gilman, View from the Cellar, Nov-Dec 2020, #90*



**95+** Made from 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Kronos Vineyard... reveal(s) enticing notes of freshly crushed black cherries, redcurrant jelly and wild blueberries with an undercurrent of cassis, allspice, sandalwood and rose oil plus a touch of garrigue. The medium-bodied palate has a real skip in its step, with delicately played, bright, energetic black and red berry layers, supported by fine-grained tannins and tons of freshness, finishing long and perfumed.  
*Lisa Perrotti-Brown, Wine Advocate, 30 October, 2020*

## falstaff

**98** Wonderful blackcurrant lift to the first whiff on the perfumed nose, followed by juiciest fruit, wax and stone with some myrrh in the background. The palate is seamless, dense, flowing yet firm, like the finest canvas stretched over a taut frame. There is an inherently graceful yet sumptuous structure, something very fine, bright and fresh at that dark-fruited heart of the wine. Incredibly elegant.  
*Anne Krebiehl, Falstaff Magazine, March-June 2022*

## WINE ENTHUSIAST

**Cellar Selection - 95** Tangy in red fruit... and a hint of iron, this vineyard-designate imparts bold, concentrated intensity within a restrained and balanced package of brightness and verve. From a relatively warm vintage and warm location, it retains nuance, elegance and length, with structure to age.  
*Virginie Boone, Wine Enthusiast, 5/1/2021*



**94** Kronos is a rarity in Napa Valley: benchland cabernet planted in 1971 on St. George rootstock. Those roots resisted the onslaught of the phylloxera louse that took out most of the valley's cabernet vines in the 1990s; under the care of Cathy Corison's sensitive farming, those are some of the oldest cabernet vines in Napa Valley, still thriving today. In 2017, Kronos is perfumed... bypassing the ease of many contemporary cabernets for an earthier elegance, drawn from those deep-rooted old vines... red-apple freshness, moving into dark currant and earthy detail that continues to carry from your breath into your memory, lasting after each sip.  
*Joshua Greene, Wine & Spirits Magazine (10/20)*



**97** The nose is pristine, sweet, ripe blackberry and blueberry with a penetrating spice and conifer needle. The palate entry is cool forest floor, lavender, cedar, plum with silky core of complex crushed red fruit, spice and tobacco, finishing with lavender and herb. Exquisite. Drink 2021-2040.  
*Doug Wilder, purely domestic wine report, August 2021*



**93** Focused, with slightly high-toned vanilla and red licorice notes running along the edges of a red currant and plum preserve-filled core. A late flurry of sweet spice, black tea and incense on the finish adds a distinctive edge. Relies on freshness and acidity, more than outright grip. Cellar this for a bit. Best from 2023 through 2034.  
*James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, March 31, 2021*



**92** Very much hewing to the refined and less-lavish style that is the hallmark of its maker, the 2017 Corison Kronos Vineyard is a claret-like Cabernet that impresses far more for its precision and finesse than it does for mouthfilling richness. That is not to say that it in any way lacks for interest or character or varietal depth, but it is a layered and nuanced, genuinely seductive wine whose intricacies are revealed through slow contemplation rather than one that aggressively roars from the glass. Although relatively soft spoken with respect to evident tannin, it is guaranteed to age famously by way of its altogether impeccable balance and, in short, is a decidedly classy effort.  
*Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine, April 2021*



**93** Medium-dark ruby; attractive, deep, ripe, fragrant, dark cherry, cassis, and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of baking spices, dried herbs, and mocha; full body; deep, rich, ripe, nicely balanced, elegant, red and black fruit flavors with good depth and balance, and some plushness in the mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Deserves a good three to five more years of bottle aging. **Very highly recommended.**  
*Nick Ponomareff, California Grapevine, April 2021*

## slowwine

**Top Wine** – Complex, aromatic and fruit forward, with melange of dark plums, black cherries and boysenberries uplifted with the vineyards signature acidity, anise, a flicker of mint and velvety tannins.  
*Slow Wine Guide USA 2021*

### International WINE REPORT

**Top 100 Wine of 2020 - 96** The 2017 Kronos Vineyard Cabernet is a simply gorgeous wine from Cathy Corison in this challenging vintage that represents a classic style of Napa Valley Cabernet. As this unwinds in the glass it releases striking aromas of blackberries and cassis, which are woven together with violets, tobacco, graphite, herbs and wet gravel. This is full-bodied and impeccably structured, with beautifully polished tannins. This displays incredible overall balance, focus and precision leading up to the graceful finish. While this is already absolutely sensational, it also possesses the potential to thrive in the cellar for many years to come.  
*J. D'Angelo, International Wine Report, December 2020*

### WASHINGTON WINE BLOG

**96** Planted in 1971 on St. George rootstock, the 'Kronos Vineyard' is one of the older vineyards still standing which is known for its tiny, concentrated berries. This benefits from a one hour decant, as the 'Kronos Vineyard' Cabernet Sauvignon takes the lead with gorgeous violet rose petals and orange blossom tones that mingle with asphalt, black cherry cordial and mocha tones that all meld in the glass. The palate is silky smooth, as this effortlessly glides across the mid-palate. Rich layers of *creme de cassis*, anise, violets and tar all impress without being heavy or over-concentrated. This is Napa elegance at its best as the gorgeous 2017 'Kronos Vineyard' Cabernet Sauvignon will cellar well for more than twenty years.  
Drink 2021-2040  
*Owen Bargreen, Washington Wine Blog, August 21, 2020*

### VertdeVin MAGAZINE & WEBSITE FOR WINE & SPIRITS LOVERS

**95-96** The nose is fresh, elegant and offers concentration... It reveals notes of violet, iris, strawberry, notes of juicy blueberry with touches of cherry, cassis, rose as well as hints of racy minerality... The palate is fruity, fresh, mineral, well-balanced, racy, full of finesse, and offers a beautiful definition... On the palate this wine expresses notes of wild blackberry, cassis, notes of violet, fresh blueberry with touches of cornflower, fresh rose, cherry as well as hints of racy minerality, nutmeg,... a subtle hint of fresh tobacco and a very discreet hint of bourbon vanilla. Tannins are elegant, precise and very finely soft. Good length. A very fine chew in the finish.  
*- translated from French, Jonathan Choukroun Chicheportiche, Vert de Vin, Spring 2021*

## Maker's Table

The Kronos was more evolved than I'd expected given its vintage (Cathy's wines are supremely age-worthy). It had a nutty midsection and fruit that conjured, according to my notes, "autumnal berries." (It's not much of a stretch; my raspberry canes are still yielding fruit.) The texture was bewitching, the tannins having resolved into something like kid suede.  
*Meg Maker, makerstable.com, October 30, 2024*

## ST. HELENA STAR

Made from 100% Cabernet Sauvignon, the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon Kronos Vineyard is wonderful. It appears opaque in the glass with vibrant aromas of cherry liqueur, black raspberry and bouquet garni. Spend time smelling this wine to reveal layers of fruit under which lie crushed sage, cinnamon toast, sandalwood, violets and lavender. The flavors are of blue and red fruits with a lovely silky texture and long finish. This wine reminds me of the 1989 Chateau Lynch-Bages Grand Cru, Pauillac, France, with its focus and structure. Enjoy this wine with grilled lamb chops that have been rolled in chopped parsley, fresh rosemary and chives.  
*Tim Carl, St. Helena Star, 12-16-21*