

# 2018 Corison *Kronos Vineyard* Cabernet Sauvignon



A nearly perfect vintage, 2018 enjoyed ideal weather at flowering which promoted a bumper crop. Nary a day over 100F during the ripening season resulted in long hang time with harvest two weeks later than normal, yielding inky color, complex flavors and snappy natural acidity.

One of my favorite vintages ever, layered fruit sings a medley of cassis, plums, black cherries, raspberry jam, kirsch and blueberries, with hints of baking spices evoking blackberry cobbler. Classic Kronos floral perfume is already in evidence with dried rose petals, violets and lavender in the mix. Mocha, toasted hazelnuts and dried herbs including rosemary, *herbes de Provence* and peppermint add grace notes, and signature wet slate and Rutherford dust and polished but grippy tannins complete the package.

- Cathy Corison, *April 2022*

## Reviews from our 25-year Kronos Vertical Tasting in October of 2024:

**Decanter** 97 A super-structured wine with a chameleon-like textural character—beginning with the softest, silkiest, plump fruit before being met with pronounced, muscular, firm tannins. Beneath this structure lies a purity of beautifully dark cherry and blackberry fruit, underscored by cool, wet slate minerality and violet pastille notes. There is remarkable polish in this deliciously upfront Cabernet, yet its underlying structure ensures it will thrive in the cellar for a very long time, especially out of magnum. (Among a 25-vintage vertical tasted at The Progress in San Francisco in October 2024.)

*Jonathan Cristaldi, Decanter, 27 Oct 2024*

**vinography**  
a wine blog

Dark garnet in the glass with purple highlights, this wine smells of cherry, blackcurrant, and dried herbs. In the mouth, gorgeous bright acidity makes flavors of blackcurrant, sour cherry, and dried herbs incredibly juicy with hints of dried herbs and light muscular tannins. Earthy notes linger in the finish. Gorgeous balance and vibrancy. Score: between **9.5** and **10**.

*Alder Yarrow, Vinography, 12.3.24*

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## Reviews upon release:

### **Decanter**

#### Napa Cabernet 2018: Wines from the top 10 producers and 10 wineries to watch

97 Corison's Kronos Vineyard is one of the great Cabernet vineyards on earth, and an anomaly in the modern Napa Valley landscape. Planted in 1971 on bale loam with Saint George rootstock. The yields are extremely low, averaging just 0.5 tonnes to the hectare. Clean, clear, radiant aromas of blue-and-purple fruits, graphite and dates. The texture is pure velvet on the palate, seamlessly laced with subtle tobacco and fennel flavours. A long, powdery finish wraps up this definitive, understated, and ageworthy Valley-floor Cabernet Sauvignon.

*Matthew Lucy, Decanter, 13 Oct 2020*

**Jancis Robinson**

18 Glowing garnet. Warm, spicy and luxurious on the nose. Napa Valley Cabernet of the purest sort. Real refinement here. The sort of wine I'd love to give those who think that all Napa Cab is overdone. There are comforting balsam notes to soothe the throat after swallowing it (it's irresistible) and the tannins are all but hidden by the subtle herb-tinged fruit until the very, very end. Finishes dry and appetising. I imagine oak played quite a role in the making of this wine but you certainly can't taste it. Very sophisticated.

*Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, 11 November 2021*

Antonio Galloni  
presents  
**vinous**  
explore all things wine

97 Cathy Corison's 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Kronos Vineyard marries the brooding intensity of this site with the charm of the year, a combination that makes for a hugely appealing wine. Dark cherry, violet, lavender, menthol and spice fill out the layers. The Kronos Cabernet is typically quite a bit more potent and muscular, but the 2018 is decidedly laid back. Time in the glass brings out a whole range of mineral and savory notes that add striking complexity. Clone 2 on St. George rootstock planted in gravelly soils yield one of the most distinctive Cabernets in Napa Valley.

*Antonio Galloni, Vinous – explore all things wine, January 2021*

**Wine Spectator**

**96** There's a savory sparkle here, with sweet bay leaf and violet notes darting from the core of damson plum, loganberry and mulberry fruit, while the sleek and refined structure supports it all. Long and pure through the finish, offering a subtle twang of iron and a nice finishing kick of fruit. The balance is superb, making this approachable now, but this is going to cruise in the cellar.

*James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, March 2, 2022*

**JAMES SUCKLING.COM**

**97** This is a sensational Kronos and one of the best ever, with pure, transparent aromas and flavors of blackcurrants, blackberries, raspberries and stones. Some violets, too. It's full-bodied with just the right amount of tannin tension and austerity to make it ever so serious. Persistent and thought-provoking young wine.

*JamesSuckling.com, January 27, 2021*

**WINE ENTHUSIAST**

**#3 – Top 100 Cellar Selections of 2022**

**98 - Cellar Selection** From old vines planted nearly 50 years ago, this wine opens in violet and rose. On the palate are seamless layers of cranberry and currant, with an underlying strength of integrated spice, dried herb and oak. Complex and concentrated, this wine is elegantly built to age and evolve, beautifully styled throughout.

*Virginie Boone, Wine Enthusiast, April 1, 2022*

**nataliemaclean**  
WINE REVIEWS & PAIRING COURSES

**100** This cabernet has powerful depth and complexity aromas of blackcurrant, dark plum and smoke. Truly outstanding. A perfect pairing for another glass and a rare steak.

*NatalieMaclean.com, August 19, 2021*

**purely domestic wine report**

**96** The aromatics take this wine to another level with multiple layers of dried plum, forest floor, lavender, and espresso flecked with notes of Asian spices. The palate entry is dense blackberry, sweet notes of blueberry and plum with silky tannins and lingering oak spice.

*Doug Wilder, free run juice, purely domestic wine report, May 8, 2022*

**VIEW FROM THE CELLAR**

**95+** The 2018 vintage of Kronos Vineyard cabernet from Cathy Corison is a lovely young bottle in the making. The wine comes in listed at 13.6 percent octane this year and delivers a refined, nascently complex bouquet of plums, red and black cherries, Rutherford Dust, violets, sweet cigar wrapper, a lovely base of soil and cedary oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and svelte, with excellent mid-palate depth, beautiful soil signature, ripe, fine-grained tannins and a very long, complex and impeccably balanced finish. Just a stunning young wine.

*John Gilman, View from the Cellar, March-April 2022, Issue #98*

**Robert Parker**  
WINE ADVOCATE

**95+** The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Kronos Vineyard features gentle herbal tendencies, hints of crushed stone and pencil shavings, plus reined-in cassis fruit. Medium to full-bodied (just 13.6% alcohol), it's silky and fine, like the other Corison Cab offerings. These are elegant, restrained food wines, in the best senses of those terms.

*Joe Czerwinski, Wine Advocate, May 31, 2022*

**RESTAURANT WINE**  
The Full Service Guide to On-Site Beverage Professionals

★★★★★ The Kronos is stunning; the best yet in terms of flavor and structure (indeed, Bordeaux-like [Haut-Medoc], in the very best sense). It is concentrated and structured on the palate, with great balance, a long flavor evolution (blackberry, black licorice, black currant, rose petal, tobacco, spicy oak), and a very long, moderately tannic finish. Remarkable quality.

*Ronn Wiegand, Restaurant Wine, July 2022, Issues 200-203*

**JEB DUNNUCK**

**93** The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Kronos Vineyard has a spicy, perfumed, and already complex bouquet of red and black currants, lead pencil, dried tobacco, cigar, and candied violets to go with a medium-bodied, elegant, seamless style on the palate... it excels for its balance, purity, complexity, and elegance. Enjoy bottles over the coming two decades.

*Jebdunnuck.com, January 27, 2021*

**Lewin on Wine**

Wine, Food, and Experiences

**94** The most intense of the range but relatively approachable because tannins are so velvety. The elegant house style with that sense of delineation to the fruits comes through the intensity. Very faint sense of piquancy in background keeps the palate crisp. Youthful structure shows directly only a faint dryness on the finish.

*Benjamin Lewin, Lewin on Wine, winespecific.com, July 12, 2021*



☀☀ This mid-sized offering fully reflects its maker's preference for elegance and grace over hard-charging ripeness and mouth-filling extract and is a wine of a claret-like persuasion that... is very steady in its focus. Its first and last statement is one of varietal purity, and, given the Corison track record, it is certain to age famously and gain in both complexity and polish over time.

*Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine, December 2021*



93 ...the Kronos 2018 is a lean cabernet with bright, high-acid notes of red fruit and dark, chocolate-rich tannins that lend a dry, dusty elegance to the finish. There's density and intensity from the fruit of 50-year-old vines, concentrated and built for long aging.

*Josh Greene, Wine & Spirits Magazine, 10/2022*



WINE INTEL FROM KAREN MACNEIL

Cathy Corison, who has made over 40 vintages in the Napa Valley, was the first woman winemaker to own her own winery there. Given the trailblazer that she is, it's not surprising that she's also forged her own style—a style that celebrates balance over bigness and grace over power. Her Cabernets have a lit-from-within character and an "aliveness" that is captivating... Her Cabernets also have silky textures and layered flavors of cassis, violet, spice, cocoa, blackberry pie, and cooling blueberry flavors. Over the years, I've had a number of Corison Cabernets from her top vineyard "Kronos." This 2018 is still very young at the moment. But put this away for a few years, and it will be magnificent.

*Wine Speed – Wine Intel from Karen MacNeil, June 10, 2022*



97 This 2018 edition is exceedingly well-balanced despite the warmth of the vintage, displaying boysenberry cordial and espresso bean tones alongside refined tannins and freshly tilled soil tones on the palate. With serious tension along side hints of peat moss and red rose water, this complex and inspiring Napa Cabernet is already beautifully evolved and will surely provide drinking enjoyment for another twenty years to come.

*owenbargreen.com, December 17, 2021*



Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon - A Truly Outstanding 2018 Vintage

Light purple; aromas of black currant, black plum and clove. Medium-full with a rich mid-palate, this displays excellent ripeness and is backed by rich tannins. There is good acidity, beautiful varietal character and persistence, while the wine coats the mouth.

Peak in 15-20 years.

*Tom Hyland, Forbes, Dec. 24, 2021*



97 The 2018 Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is another brilliant release from Cathy Corison. This begins with striking aromatics of ripe red/dark currants, dark plums, spring flowers, spices, graphite and hints of licorice that all come together beautifully in the glass. On the palate this shows wonderful freshness and purity, as it continues to impress with remarkable focus and precision. It goes on to display gorgeous ripe red and dark fruits that are structured with polished tannins, which provide plenty of length on the finish... To put simple, this is a stunning wine with a brilliant future ahead.

*Joe D'Angelo, International Wine Report, December 2021*



97 The most profound and elegant of the Corison Cabernet Sauvignons, the Kronos Vineyard wine is made from very low yielding, gnarly, 50-year-old vines. It offers a fine, dark red berry and spicy perfume, a firm and beautifully structured, layered palate, and a very rich, long palate. The Kronos vineyard was planted in 1971 on St. George rootstock, yielding just 1.25 tons/acre.

*Donald Winkler, i-winereview.com, Oct. 27, 2021*