

2021 Corison Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon



Another lovely 2021, the Sunbasket Cabernet Sauvignon is the happy result of a small crop of tiny, tasty berries, thanks to winter drought and heat in June. Then a long, moderate ripening season kicked in to promote perfect balance.

A hallmark of Sunbasket, raspberry fruit leads the way, joined by notes of plum and blueberry. Heady rose petal and violet perfume is evolving already and baking spices, white pepper and granite minerality add complexity. Velvety tannins contribute to a lush, full feel in the mouth.
~ Cathy Corison

Decanter 98 Bold and richly aromatic of dark berry fruits, chocolate and cedarwood with a refreshing hint of orchard pit and sandalwood. Full, round and rife with fine-grained chewy tannins, lacy acidity, and a host of pure fruit flavours redolent of cherry, plum, raspberry, and even muddled apricot. For all its brooding qualities on the bouquet, it shows a light and vibrant palate expression with a beautiful saline mineral finish and hints of spring flowers. Impressive for a 100% Cabernet. *Jonathan Cristaldi, Decanter Magazine, 12 May, 2024*



96 The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Sunbasket Vineyard is rich, heady and effusive, as it so often is. Succulent dark fruit, espresso, licorice, cloves and mocha fill out the layers effortlessly. In 2021, the Sunbasket is on the darker side but still has the plush contours that are such a signature. Time in the glass releases further shades of textural intensity, leading to a rich, substantial finish. This is another impeccable wine from Cathy Corison.

Antonio Galloni, Vinous, December 2023



95 This is characterful with a spicy nature, offering a spectrum of ripe and vibrant fruit with sweet spice, pink peppercorn, wet stone and seashell notes. Medium- to full-bodied, firm and structured, with stony, minerally undertones and chiseled, textural tannins. Long and persistent. It has freshness and power, really well-made.

JamesSuckling.com, March 2024



95 A distinctive red, with piercing notes of iris and ink leading off, followed by intense mulberry, boysenberry and blackberry reduction. Tightly coiled but rippling with energy in the form of fresh acidity and sleek tannins, this drives along to the pinpoint finish, where an iron accent vibrates underneath the fruit.

James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, Oct. 31, 2025



Very dark garnet in the glass with purple highlights, this wine smells of black cherry, black plum, licorice, and a hint of flowers. The wine has a gorgeous seamlessness on the palate, as dark cherry, blackcurrant, and licorice flavors are wrapped in a fleecy blanket of tannins that sits weightless on the palate. Beautifully integrated notes of oak (mostly scents of vanilla) hang above the fruit, as a faint graphite note lingers below. Fantastic acidity and a sort of coiled-spring sense of power. Lovely. Score: around 9.5.

Alder Yarrow, vinography.com, 12/15/24

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR 95 (Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet) has been consistently excellent since its debut in 2014, but my gut feeling is that the soon to be released 2021 Sunbasket is the finest wine Cathy has yet released under this label! The wine comes in at an even fourteen percent octane in this vintage and delivers an absolutely superb bouquet of black cherries, sweet cassis, Cuban cigar wrapper, a gorgeous base of soil, a touch of Rutherford Dust, gentle smokiness, violets and an utterly refined framing of new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied, focused and complex, with a stunning core of ripe fruit, great soil signature and grip, fine-grained, firm tannins, seamless balance and great length on the refined and oh, so promising finish.

John Gilman, Issue #114, View from the Cellar, Nov-Dec 2024

JEB DUNNUCK 94 Red and black fruits, leather, burning embers, violets, and hints of incense all emerge from the 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Sunbasket Vineyard, another Bordeaux-like Cabernet Sauvignon from Corison that's flawlessly balanced, has medium to full-bodied richness, and ripe yet present tannins. This incredibly complete, layered, impressive 2021 will benefit from 2-4 years of bottle age and keep for two decades.
Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, 1/8/25



96 Deep garnet-purple colored, it shimmies out with bold, energetic notes of crushed blackberries, fresh mulberries, and red cherries, plus hints of wild thyme, violets, and underbrush. The medium-bodied palate is vivacious and elegantly crafted with firm, fine-grained tannins and bold freshness supporting the bright, shimmery fruit, finishing long and minerally.

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



96 There are just 200 cases of Corison's 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon Sunbasket Vineyard, the ripest and most expansive of the three wines tasted for this report. Scents of pencil shavings, cassis, black cherries and blackberries appear on the nose, while the medium to full-bodied palate—this checks in at a reported 14% alcohol—is richly concentrated, quite lush and compelling yet restrained and regal, with a long finish framed by lingering, fine-grained tannins.

Joe Czerwinski, Wine Advocate, Feb. 27, 2025



97 The 2021 Sunbasket Vineyard immediately captivates with an aromatic profile of ripe blackcurrants, fresh blueberries, and crème de cassis. These fruit-forward notes are beautifully layered with hints of pencil shavings, fragrant violets, tobacco, savory herbs, and an earthy undertone of wet stone minerality. On the palate, it is nothing less than stunning, delivering a full-bodied experience with a focused core consisting of beautifully ripe fruit. The texture is enhanced by impeccably polished tannins, while the wine's structure allows flavors to unfold in graceful, layered waves. The finish is long and resonant, showcasing both its refined power and graceful finesse. While this Cabernet is already outstanding, its depth and complexity hint at an even brighter future, ensuring that it will continue to evolve for decades to come. The is truly spectacular wine that exemplifies Corison's artistry and dedication to excellence.

Joe D'Angelo, International Wine Report, November 2024



Round fruit with freshness on the finish and tannins that are so well hidden than you could drink this tonight.

JancisRobinson.com, 2 May, 2024



On the nose, chewy blackberry, chocolate and graphite. Engaging, evolving palate. Round, soft attack with dark fruit, savory mineral. Fine, chewy tannins carry the midpalate. Gentle waves of acidity for the long finish.

2025 Slow Wine Guide



96 Known for her elegant, Bordeaux-inspired Napa Cabernets, Cathy Corison consistently crafts wines that exemplify balance and longevity. The 2021 Cabernet Sauvignon from Sunbasket Vineyard is no exception. It opens with classic aromas of pencil shavings, cassis, black cherry, and blackberry. On the palate, it is rich and youthful, bursting with dark red and black fruit, alongside emerging notes of blackcurrant, subtle earth, and violet petals. Fine-grained tannins frame the long, refined finish. This is a beautifully made wine with depth, poise, and a long life ahead.

Miranda Franco, Wine Review Online, July 23, 2025