

2010 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon



Rainfall returned after three years of drought, pushing bud break, flowering and fruit-set back by at least two weeks at the beginning of the growing season. The summer brought cooler than normal temperatures so the lag continued into the ripening season. A two-day heat spike toward the end of August caused some sunburn, which required very selective picking. The cool growing season continued until a lovely Indian Summer set in in late September and October bringing the grapes to full ripeness. The long, cool season and small crop yielded a wine of uncommon concentration. Dark, brooding flavors of berries and cassis dance with dusty minerality, baking spices and violet perfume!
~ Cathy Corison, *September 2013*

Antonio Galloni
vinous

Vintage Retrospective: The 2010 Napa Valley Cabernets (May 2020)

Dark medium red. Musky scents of plum, cassis, chocolate, iron filings and licorice, lifted by a floral nuance. Supple, silky and suave on entry, then fine-grained and flavorful but quite subtle as well in the middle palate, with strong acidity and a light herbal element giving definition and lift to the dark berry, spice and bitter chocolate flavors. Medium- rather than full-bodied, but long on flavor. Dry, savory and very suave... with the structure to go on for another decade at least. Finishes with a firm spine and excellent length and lift.

Stephen Tanzer, Vinous, May 2020

FOOD & WINE
INSPIRATION SERVED DAILY

Jancis Robinson's 7 Favorite Wines - 2010 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

Cathy Corison is my heroine. She makes such great wine - the essence of Napa Valley minus the bludgeoning force, plus a sensible price tag. And I love the 2010s.

Jancis Robinson interviewed by Ray Isle, Wine Royalty, Food & Wine Magazine, October 2014

Antonio Galloni
vinous

93 + The 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon is drop-dead gorgeous. An intense, reticent wine, the 2010 is endowed with serious density, depth and structure. This is one of the most powerful, tightly coiled wines of the year. It will require considerable time in bottle but all

the elements are in the right place. Plums, iron, cloves, violets, licorice and smoke all flesh out on the firm, structured finish. This is a fabulous wine with a great future, a superb effort from Cathy Corison.

Antonio Galloni, Vinous, November 2013

International
WINE REPORT

95 The 2010 Corison Cabernet Sauvignon is a classy display of Napa Valley Cabernet. It opens up with dazzling aromas of fresh blackberries and cassis which are followed by gorgeous floral, dusty mineral and a touch of herbs that resonate through this wine. This

Cabernet shows remarkable purity, structure and finesse with fine tannins, which work their way into the long, pretty finish. A simply outstanding wine from Cathy Corison.

Joe D'Angelo, International Wine Report, Nov. 2013

Decanter
the world's best wine magazine

18.5 (95) Seamless integration, with bright, juicy red and black fruit, ripe tannins, refreshing acidity and moderate alcohol. Layered and complex, unfolding with each sip.

Decanter Magazine, California 2013 Issue

Jancis Robinson
JancisRobinson.com

18/20 Deep crimson. Very fine and svelte on the nose. So sumptuous and delightful. Gorgeous complexity without heat. Beautiful texture. Fine subtle tannins in reserve and truly beautiful. Cool, refined. I cannot imagine a better claret.

Jancis Robinson, jancisrobinson.com, 7 May 2014

VINOGRAPHY: a wine blog

Wine and food adventures in San Francisco and around the world

Dark garnet in the glass, this wine smells of crushed green herbs, cherry, and black pepper. In the mouth, cherry, black pepper and forest floor flavors are wrapped in a tight sheath of fine-grained tannins. Gorgeous acidity and length. Cool and juicy with a distinctly herbal cast that speaks to the coolness of the year. Wonderfully satin textured. 13.6% alcohol. Score: around 9.5.

Alder Yarrow, vinography.com, 6.27.2015

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

93 Cathy Corison's 2010 wines have shown beautifully since release and I was very happy to have the chance to revisit the 2010 Napa Valley bottling when I was out at the winery in early September of 2016. This wine remains young and very promising on both the nose and palate, offering up a lovely bouquet of black cherries, a touch of cocoa, lovely soil tones, cigar smoke, a dollop of wild bay leaf and that signature, understated Corison new oak treatment. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, long and elegant in personality, with excellent mid-palate depth, superb focus and balance and a long, fine-grained tannic finish of very promising beauty. This vintage came in at 13.6 percent alcohol, which allows for all of the purity of fruit, coupled to fine soil signature that make this vintage so lovely at Corison.

John Gilman, View from the Cellar, May-June 2017, #69

Dan Berger's Vintage Experiences
The Weekly Wine Commentary

Exceptional Corison Cabs are always true to their roots, and this may be the best ever. Spot-on aroma of dried/fresh cherries, a trace of herbs, and a lush, dramatic mid-palate. Modest alcohol (13.6%) and a complex finish make it a wine for now and 20 years. Sensational. Release date: Sept. 1. Don't miss it.

Dan Berger's Vintage Experiences, Volume XVII, Issue 25 August 1, 2013

Wine & Spirits
MAGAZINE

95 For over 20 years, Cathy Corison has sourced her Napa cabernet from the same three vineyards, gravelly sites on the western benchland between Rutherford and St. Helena. This offers that area's distinctly plush and gentle tannins in a Napa Valley cabernet of the old school. It feels formal and reserved, contrasting fresh herbal notes of pipe tobacco and cedar with classic cabernet flavors of red and black currants. Impeccably balanced, this has a scent that's as compelling as any premier cru Pauillac, with the sunny profile of the Mayacamas benchlands. In other words, it smells pretty great, especially after it's been open for a day. Built for the cellar, this will provide delicious drinking with roast lamb over the next ten years.

Wine & Spirits Magazine, December 2013

100 Best Wines of the Year

"These 100 stood out among all the others, and left us thinking of them long after the glasses were cleared... Best Cabernet Sauvignons... Corison 2010 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon."

Wine & Spirits Magazine, 28th Annual Buying Guide - Special Issue, Winter 2014

RESTAURANT WINE
The Full Service Guide to On-Site Beverage Orders

Corison Winery, 2010 Napa Valley - Perhaps the best-ever Corison Cabernet. It is elegantly flavored (boysenberry, cherry, rosehips, black currant, toast, spicy oak), full bodied, supple in texture (with firm underlying acidity), quite rich in flavor, and very long and harmonious on the finish. A stunning wine. 1,800 cases.

Ronn Wiegand, Restaurant Wine, Issues #152-154, April 2014

California **GRAPEVINE**

92 Medium-dark ruby with a purplish tinge; attractive, forward, fragrant, cassis, black cherry, and blueberry fruit aroma with herbal notes and a hint of violets; medium-full to full body; rich, spicy, dark cherry and berry fruit flavors that are well balanced and firmly structured; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. While very appealing to taste now the wine deserves another three to five more years of bottle aging. **Very highly recommended**

Nick Ponomareff, California Grapevine, Volume 39, September 2013



Stephen Tanzer's
International Wine Cellar

91(+?) Good bright medium ruby. Blackberry, cassis and licorice on the nose. Tightly wound but not hard, with a slightly high-toned character, subtle sweetness and strong energy to the intense black fruit and licorice flavors. Densely packed, taut wine with a long, suavely tannic finish. This will require at least five to seven years of bottle aging upon release.

Steve Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, May/June 2013

ST. HELENA
STAR

Wine of the Week - Corison 2010 Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley

This is it. This is the cabernet sauvignon that shows the sunshine-rich fruit of Napa Valley with all its potential complexity and grace. *Cathy Bugue, St. Helena Star, May 12, 2015*

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

93 I love Cathy Corison's fine and elegant Napa cabernets and will be writing a full-length feature on her and her lovely wines in the not too distant future. Her most recent releases hail from the 2010 vintage and are excellent. Her 2010 Napa Valley bottling tips the scales at a very civilized 13.6 percent alcohol and offers up a superb bouquet of red and black cherries, gentle cigar smoke, incipient notes of allspice and fresh nutmeg, a lovely base of soil, a touch of violets and a judicious framing of cedary new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, pure and nicely balanced, with a fine core of fruit, plenty of firm, ripe tannins and excellent length and grip on the youthful and very promising finish.

John Gilman, View from the Cellar, Jan/Feb 2014, Issue #49

JamesSuckling.com

Straightforward Napa cabernet with blueberries, minerals and currants. Medium to full body with fine tannins and a clean finish. Corison always makes refined, drinkable cabernets. Drink or hold. *James Suckling, May 15, 2014*



Although she has found something akin to celebrity status in the eyes of those recently arrived to the dance who somehow think Napa Cabernets of refinement and nuance are new and revolutionary, winemaker Cathy

Corison has for some time now been turning out balanced, well-focused wines such as this that steer away from high ripeness and blatant oak... its flavors are constant and comfortably fruited, and its teasing touches of black olives, toasted herbs, dusty soils and graphite are signals enough that increased complexity and richness are the certain rewards for five or six years of patience.

Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine, Reviewed: December 2013