

2011 Corison *Kronos Vineyard* Cabernet Sauvignon



Long and cool, 2011 was a challenging, but ultimately rewarding vintage. Ending with a big dose of rain, this season played handily into my style, favoring an elegant and refined expression of Cabernet Sauvignon. On well-drained, gravelly benchland soils, *Kronos Vineyard* promotes early ripening, shining in years such as this. A scant crop of scraggly clusters with tiny berries resulted in a wine of uncommon depth and concentration.

~ Cathy Corison, March 2015

Reviews from our 25-Year Kronos Retrospective Tasting:

Decanter 95 A bit like stepping back in time to the late 1990s vintages, the 2011 is a perfectly whole and complete wine... it is beautifully precise, pure, and elegant. Flourishes of bright tobacco, cherry, cherry blossom, and currant fruit lead the way. Medium-bodied on the palate, with ultra-fine powdery tannins, loamy earth, lilac, and graphite, underscored by pops of salt crystals and cacao nibs. A streak of blood-orange acidity adds lift and vibrancy. (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

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

Medium to dark garnet in the glass, this wine smells of aromatic herbs, cedar, and sour cherries. In the mouth, gorgeous sour cherry and citrus peel flavors are bright and mouthwatering with powdery tannins, dried herbs, and dried flowers. Stunning bright acidity and juiciness. Citrusy notes linger for a long time through the soaring finish. Poised and vibrant. 13% alcohol. Score: between **9.5** and **10**.

Alder Yarrow, *Vinography*, December 3, 2024

~ ~ ~

Earlier Reviews:



Very much hewing to the subdued, firmly built style championed by its maker and adored by her fans, the 2011 Kronos gets high marks for varietal precision and unwavering focus, and it once again proves that

Cabernet Sauvignon is capable of richness and wide-reaching range without needing to flex its big muscles. As is the norm, it steers clear of high ripeness and, in this vintage, shows an edge of green tea to its quietly confident, curranty fruit. Its filling fits its trim frame, and its many pieces are seamlessly joined and, while finesse rather than unbridled power is its forte, it still wants some five or six years of cellaring before showing all that it has.

Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine, Reviewed: April 2015

Decanter 95 Exotic, herbal and initially shy. Pine cone, mahogany, dried plum and wet concrete aromas slowly reveal themselves. The palate is deft and three dimensional, with flavours of mortadella, dried huckleberry and dusty gravel. I advise opening this a few hours ahead of consumption to let it breathe.

Matthew Luczy, *Decanter*, 01 Feb, 2021

International
WINE REPORT

TOP 100 Wines of 2014

98 Cathy Corison's 2011 Napa Valley Cabernet releases are absolutely incredible, highlighted by this stunning Kronos Vineyard Cabernet. While many winemakers across the Valley struggled with the extended, cool growing season in 2011, these conditions played right into her hand of producing classic, pure and elegant Cabernet Sauvignon. This wine instantly bursts open with delicious fresh cassis and blackberries followed by spring floral, graphite hints of exotic spices and a lovely mineral character. It possesses wonderful finesse and balance along with beautiful polished tannins that carry the wine into the finish. I can't say enough about the brilliant job Cathy Corison has accomplished in 2011, this is simply a gorgeous wine that is delicious today and will continue to evolve for well beyond a decade.

Joe D'Angelo, *International Wine Report*, November 2014

93 Dark red cherries, plums, freshly cut flowers, mint and spices lift from the 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon Kronos. In 2011, the Kronos is especially aromatic and lifted in style. Hints of kirsch and lavender add nuance on the delineated, layered finish. *Antonio Galloni, Vinous, December 2014*



Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, deep, intense, spicy, red currant and black cherry fruit aroma with hints of dried, herbs, vanilla, and graphite; full body; tight, firmly structured, dark berry fruit flavors with good depth and firm acidity; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows good balance and potential elegance that will come

with further bottle aging. **Very highly recommended.** *Nick Ponomareff, California Grapevine, Volume 41, January 2015*

Dan Berger's Vintage Experiences
The Weekly Wine Commentary

Exceptional: The aromas of olive, mint, and a faint tea note add depth to dark dried-cherry fruit.

Dan Berger's Vintage Experiences, Vol. XVIII, #39, Nov 13, 2014

JamesSuckling.com

92 This is really showing well now with blueberry, black berry, salt and white pepper character. Medium body, firm tannins and a savory finish... mineral undertones. *James Suckling, January 15, 2016*

Jancis Robinson
JancisRobinson.com

18 Ruby-black core with ruby edges. Star bright in the glass. Fresh lifting aromatics showing notes of cedar, dried rose and potpourri. Exuberant, exotic flavours including notes of blooming roses, mixed dried citrus, and a cascade of mixed fruits. Accents of cedar and gunmetal with a

background of white mushrooms show layers of complexity. This is a lovely, harmonious wine that is simultaneously finessed, exotic and nicely balanced – fine-boned and lengthy with ultra-fine-grained, persistent tannin. There is something incredibly fine and delicate here like bone china or antique lace while also full of beauty and presence. This is the most ethereal of the vintages tasted though I don't mean by that to deny the real presence and still earthy elements throughout the wine. Lovely. A favourite. Those looking for the power and push easily possible with this variety will need to look elsewhere. This wine is all about delicacy, finesse and nuance. The size and weight of the wine is comparable to the 1996 but everything here at the same time actually feels finer boned – it would be easy to assume that implies less ageing potential for this vintage but there is such harmony of elements here that I'm inclined to give it just as much overall time as other vintages. To put that another way, the wine has the incredible elegance, and fineness of fine china, and fine china remains quite durable for decades (and as museums teach us, even longer) as long as we don't drop it.

Elaine Chukan Brown for jancisrobinson.com, 3/12/19

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR **95** ...I have found this cooler vintage utterly captivating at most of my favorite estates and fully expect it to be the great sleeper vintage of its era.

The 2011 Kronos Vineyard bottling from Corison is a bit lower in octane than most vintages, coming in at an even thirteen percent, but the wine has a very dynamic personality on both the nose and palate and is going to be absolutely stunning with sufficient time in the cellar. The bouquet is extremely precise and nascently complex, delivering scents of black cherries, dark plums, tobacco leaf, classy soil tones, cigar ash, allspice, hints of violet and a discreet framing of cedary new wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and tightly-knit, with a rock solid core of fruit, ripe, seamless tannins, excellent acidity and lovely backend soil signature on the very, very long, vibrant and complex finish. Though the 2011 Kronos is still a very young wine, it is already showing some lovely, old vine backend sappiness that is going to define this wine when it is ready to drink! 2027-2070.

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

RODALE'S OrganicLife **10 Simply Lovely Natural Wines**

The most elegant cabernet in the Napa Valley, in my opinion, is made by Cathy Corison, whose 40-year-old vines are some of Napa's most antique... Corison farms organically and picks her grapes early. They have less sugar, more acid, pronounced aromatics, and a superb minerality that makes the wine taste more Old World than Californian.

Betsy Andrews, Rodale's Organic Life, April 1, 2015



Kronos 2011 is gorgeous... Corison, who emphasizes balance and restraint in her wines, managed to create a smooth, elegant wine of tightly blended flavors.

Eunice Fried, Global Traveler, May 2, 2015

Newark Star Ledger - Corison Does it Her Way

2011 Kronos Vineyard Cabernet ...display(s) the elegant texture and harmonious composition of fruit, tannins and acidity that is Corison's calling card.

John Foy, Newark Star Ledger, February 26, 2015