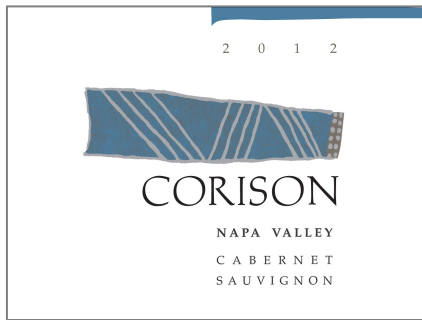


## 2012 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon



Budbreak was delayed by a cold, rainy March in 2012 that gave the vines the water they needed to make the long journey through to autumn without irrigation. A picture-perfect ripening season ensued with moderate highs mostly in the 80°F's, and nary a heat spike all the way through to picking during the last 2 weeks of September. Just as key, the nights were very cold, frequently dipping down into the 40°F's. The result was wildly complex flavors and pretty floral perfume complemented by a mineral verve and bright acidity. I love this wine. Light on its feet, it smells of black cherry, blueberry and black currant fruits, violets and loamy earth. Top notes of peppermint and cumin add even more interest. The finish goes on and on.

~ Cathy Corison, September 2015

Antonio Galloni  
**vinous**

**92** Cathy Corison's 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon is dark, pliant and super-expressive. Open-knit and supple, the 2012 is open and quite delicious today. This is an unusually dark Cabernet from Cathy Corison. I imagine the 2012 will drink well for another decade plus, perhaps considerably longer. Black cherries, plums, cloves, new leather and chocolate flesh out on the resonant, expressive finish.

Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*, Oct. 2015

**terroir**  
R E V I E W

Profusely floral and still so youthful: I first tasted Cathy Corison's 2012 Napa Cab with her at the winery in April 2015. It was floral and tender, youthful, evincing a porcelain fragility. I cellared some of that vintage and opened a bottle recently. The robe was still a shocking violet red color with a flame pink rim, and its fragrance remained on-point: There was a scent of fresh rose petals, dried rose petals, plus cassis, black and red raspberry.

Time has added a shimmer of Mandarin orange peel, some red citrus. The palate remains silky with a core of bright, tart fruit wound around vanishing tannins. The flavors unroll in waves: First roses, like rose petal tea, then black currant, black raspberry, and a sense of something like Chinese five spice powder. The wine is flowery, so elegant, yet so age-worthy it feels timeless. It reminds me of an Old Masters painting, maybe mixed flowers in a pewter vase in sunlight, rose madder and vermillion and all.

Meg Houston Maker, *Terroir Review*, January 9, 2020

### Decanter – 2015 California Wine Guide

Murphy's top 2012 Cabernet Buys


**Corison, Napa Valley 2012 (91)** The mouthfilling cherry and berry fruit is perfectly ripe, with enhanced fresh herb, cedar and forest-like notes. Fine tannins and crisp acidity.

Linda Murphy, *Decanter*, September 2015



2012 Corison, Napa Valley – Medium-dark purplish ruby; attractive, deep, complex, blueberry and blackberry fruit aroma with a note of cassis and hints of dried herbs and vanilla; full body; rich, ripe, textured, well balanced, currant and dark berry fruit flavors with good depth and an expansive, velvety mouthfeel; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Approachable and appealing now, though deserving another five more years of bottle aging. **Very highly recommended.** *California Grapevine, Volume 41, June 2015*



 **CORISON** Napa Valley 2012 - Purity, polish and restraint have long been the watchwords with Ms. Corison's Cabernets, and this latest offering falls right into step. It exhibits a good measure of continuous, slightly pert, herb-accented, black cherry fruit framed

by lightly laid-on oak and is at once both supple and a bit lean in construction. It is far from opulent stuff and opts for refinement rather than sheer power, yet it is sustained and well-focused...

*Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine, August 2015*

### VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

**94** I was very sorry to miss the opportunity to celebrate Cathy Corison's twenty-fifth harvest, as the winery organized tastings on both the east and west coasts to commemorate the milestone by opening every vintage that she has produced at her own winery, and I was in Europe at the time of both events! In any event, her 2012 "Napa" cabernet sauvignon, which is her twenty-sixth vintage here, is really a beautiful wine, tipping the scales at a very refined 13.9 percent alcohol and offering up an utterly classic bouquet of red and black cherries, tobacco smoke, beautiful spice tones, a touch of currant leaf, Rutherford dust and a judicious framing of new oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, pure and marvelously elegant, with a lovely core, superb soil signature, nascent complexity and excellent focus and grip on the very long, ripely tannic and impeccably balanced finish. This wine will age brilliantly! *Tout en finesse.*

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

**Wine of the Week** 2012 Corison Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley (\$85): Fabulous Cab aroma that features dried herbs, red and dark cherries, a hint of plum, and an exotic peppermint aroma. Absolute harmony between all parts—acid, tannin, loads of fruit, no overt oak. The best wine to illustrate the seamlessness we wrote of here last week. Cathy Corison has never wavered in her quest to keep Napa's historic image alive with utterly classic Cabs. Don't miss this perfectly balanced wine.  
*Dan Berger's Vintage Experiences, Volume XIX, Issue 30, September 3, 2015*

## Maker's Table

Food, Wine and the Pleasures of the Table

### 2012 Corison Winery Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley

This new vintage has a floral perfume that mingles roses, fennel, and toasted anise seed, and its red currant and cranberry fruits suggest ripeness but not sweetness. The wine feels alive, fresh and vibrant, with a kind of gamine, pliant springiness wrapped around a vital, muscular core. As this wine ages this youthful body will attenuate and sharpen, becoming even more beautiful.  
*Meg Houston Maker, makerstable.com, June 28, 2015*

## *International* WINE REPORT

**96** The 2012 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon from Cathy Corison is a completely compelling wine, immediately impressing with its striking purity and elegant personality. As this slowly unwinds it begins to release gorgeous aromas of ripe currants and fresh dark fruits, which are woven together with graphite, pencil shavings, violets, sweet Asian spices and minerals all coming together and soaring from the glass. This beautifully textured, polished Cabernet continues to impress with its remarkable balance, wonderful precision and outstanding depth as it makes a seamless transition into the long, velvety finish. Cathy Corison managed to capture all the ripeness from the vintage, while at the same time keeping this wine well-tailored and extremely classy. Even at this infant stage the 2012 already shows a great deal of appealing characteristics, however this is a wine which will be long-lived, capable of lasting decades and will only improve over time. Overall, a simply tremendous effort from Cathy Corison. (Best 2017-2036)  
*Joe D'Angelo, International Wine Report, May 2015*

THE ART OF FINE WINE LIVING

## LE·PAN

**93** Dark berry fruit with velvety tannins and wonderful restraint in this ripe vintage. Cassis, red currant and a hint of cedar. Cathy Corison has been making wine in Napa for over 30 years and the grapes have been sourced from the same vineyards for 28 of those. Matured in 50% new French oak for 22 months.  
*Jeannie Cho Lee, Le Pan, LP Guide, September-October 2015*

## JamesSuckling.com

**92** As always, a red with balance and tension plus black currant, spice and wet bark aromas and flavors. Full body, silky tannins and a fresh finish.  
*James Suckling, July 28, 2015*