

2012 Corison *Kronos Vineyard* Cabernet Sauvignon



A cold, rainy March set the stage for a nearly perfect growing season, allowing us to dry-farm Kronos Vineyard. The ripening season followed with moderate highs, mostly in the 80°F's, all the way through to picking at the end of September. Coupled with cold nights, often in the 40°F's, the season yielded ripe, juicy fruit with uncommon natural acidity. Kronos Vineyard sports its very best qualities in vintages like this. Bright blueberry notes join the dominant black fruit flavors of black cherry, black raspberry, plum and cassis in a layered display that carries through into a seemingly endless finish. Pretty violet perfume, minerality and spice complete the package. The tannins feel like velvet. This is one for the ages.

~ Cathy Corison, March 2016

Reviews from our 25-Year Kronos Retrospective Tasting:

Decanter 96 Dark berry fruit, conifer notes, salted dark chocolate, and toasty cedarwood mingle with hints of fennel. The full-bodied palate delivers a rich, dark-fruited expression framed by compact, velvety-textured tannins that lend structure to its creamier, dark fruit core. The long finish unfurls layers of wild herbs, crumbled chocolate, and baking spice. Incredibly youthful and compact yet reasonably generous, with a delicious factor heightened by its saline-mineral character—beckoning another sip. (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

Dark garnet in the glass, this wine smells of black cherry, dried herbs, dried flowers, and blueberries. In the mouth, blueberry and chopped green herbs mix with black cherry, tobacco leaf, and a touch of dark earth. Powdery tannins coat the mouth and hang gauzily in the finish. Rich without being weighty. Fantastic. 13.7% alcohol. 850 cases made. Score: between **9.5** and **10**.

Alder Yarrow, *Vinography*, December 3, 2024

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Reviews Upon Release:

Jancis Robinson
JancisRobinson.com

18 Spiced blackcurrant and blackberry bramble freshly sprinkled with cocoa powder and anise served with a side of black tea and toast. Ultra-fine tannins couple with mouth-watering acidity and a dusty-rock minerality for a long, palate-cleansing finish. Nicely persistent flavour shown through natural concentration and a resulting freshness. Will no doubt age and evolve well in bottle. Drink 2017-2030.

Elaine Chukan Brown for *jancisrobinson.com*, 7 Sep 2016

Ruby-black core to ruby edges. Star bright in the glass. Aromatics of redcurrant, black cherry and dark cocoa with hints of cedar and gunpowder. Bursting, expressive palate of mixed fruits and blooming roses – mixed citrus, crisp dark berries, redcurrant and pomegranate. Fine-grained tannin and balancing acidity...

Elaine Chukan Brown for *jancisrobinson.com*, 12 Mar 2019

Decanter 2015 California Wine Guide
Murphy's top 2012 Cabernet Buys

Corison, Kronos Vineyard, Napa Valley 2012 **18.5 (95)** Old, low-yielding vines produce a wine with effusive aromas and flavours of potpourri, black fruit, Asian spice and black olive. Scintillating acidity, unfolding complexity and a long, bracing finish make this a wine not to be missed.

Linda Murphy, *Decanter*, September 2015

Antonio Galloni
vinous

95+ The 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon Kronos presents a more intensely mineral and savory profile than the Napa Valley, with the opulence of the vintage pushed more into the background. Dried flowers, iron, spice, leather and mint add nuance. Ideally readers should give the 2012 at least a few years in bottle... The 2012 is a big wine, but it is also quite vivid, full of detail and nuanced.

Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*, Oct. 2015

2015 TOP 100 WINES | Rank #10

98 The 2012 Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is another simply incredible showing from Cathy Corison and a wonderful example of Napa Valley Cabernet at its finest. Kronos is Cathy Corison's single estate vineyard which was planted in 1971 and is one of the last old Cabernet vineyards in the Valley. In 2012 Cathy Corison was able to achieve striking overall purity, elegance and precision in her Kronos Cabernet, a combination which is never an easy task to achieve. As this begins to open in the glass it releases seductive aromas of fresh blackberries and red currants followed by graphite, fresh violets and sweet spices which all come together beautifully in the glass. This continues to impress with its outstanding balance and finesse along with its remarkably sleek, velvety texture and long lingering finish. Today the Kronos Cabernet is already showing many appealing characteristics, but this will only evolve further over the next two decades and become even more special with age. (Best 2016-2035)

Joe D'Angelo, International Wine Report, August, 2015



93 🌸🌸 Corison's flagship Cabernet from the Kronos Vineyard garners style points galore and proves that complexity and richness are not at all dependent on blustery ripeness. It leads with layered, deeply constituted aromas of cassis, cream and a touch of root-beer-like sweetness and follows with exquisite, wonderfully well-composed flavors that speak with quiet authority. It is moderately full-bodied but is graceful and impeccably balanced from entry to finish. Winery devotees who prize the estate's signature traits of refinement simply could not ask for more, and those who are unfamiliar with the Corison name are enthusiastically encouraged to make its acquaintance.

Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine, December 2015

Saint Helena Star - Wine of the week: Corison Winery 2012 Kronos Vineyard Napa Valley

Catherine Bugue, December 14, 2016



Medium-dark ruby; attractive, deep, bright, fragrant, cassis and black cherry fruit aroma with hints of dried herbs and anise; full body; nicely balanced, elegant, refined, red and black fruit flavors (a bit lighter in style and softer in the mouthfeel than most of the other wines in this group); full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Very approachable and appealing now, though

deserving another five years of bottle aging. **Very highly recommended.** *Nick Ponomareff, California Grapevine, Vol. 41, Oct. 2015*

John Winthrop Haeger

Deep and black-red in the center, more like rose red at the edge. Aromas and flavors of blackberry and mesquite. Slightly ferrous impression. Soft, ample tannins that are nicely wrapped. Gentle with a suede-like texture, but huge concentration in the background. A great example of the proverbial "iron hand in a velvet glove."

12/25/21

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

95+ The 2012 vintage of Kronos Vineyard from Corison Winery is a stunning young bottle in the making. The wine is a tad less ripe than the "Napa" in 2012, coming in at 13.7 percent octane and offering up a pure and youthful bouquet of black cherries, cassis, gorgeous soil tones, cigar smoke, hints of the bell pepper to go and the Rutherford dust to come, gentle spice tones and a very understated framing of cedary wood. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and laserlike in its focus, with a sappy core of fruit, superb soil signature, seamless tannins and a very, very long, elegant and still quite youthful finish. This is still very early days for the 2012 Kronos, which will be an absolutely stellar wine in the fullness of time, but I would not touch a bottle for at least another eight to ten years, as this wine is going to get better and better with extended bottle age!

John Gillman, View from the Cellar, Issue #58, July-August 2015

96 I had not tasted the 2012 Kronos Vineyard from Cathy Corison since its release in the spring of 2015 and was very happy that it was in our lineup at the winery in September. I loved this wine out of the blocks and it was showing brilliant potential at the winery, soaring from the glass in a beautiful, young aromatic blend of red and black cherries, a touch of eucalyptus, Rutherford dust, tobacco leaf and a very suave base of new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and nascently complex, with a lovely core of sappy fruit, great focus and grip, fine-grained tannins and exquisite balance on the very, very long and refined finish. This is, of course, still a very young wine, but it will be one of the defining wines of Cathy's illustrious career when all is said and done! 2030-2075+.

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

93 Subtle, balanced and intense, this Kronos shows little of the ripe, very warm character of the 2012 vintage. There is a generosity and roundness to the palate shape but the flavors, as usual for Corison wines, are all about finesse and detail. A refreshing, restrained Cabernet made from vines aged 30-plus years.

Jeannie Cho Lee, Le Pan, LP Guide, September-October 2015

JamesSuckling.com

94 Beautiful aromas of lavender, rosemary and black currants follow through to a full body with very pretty integrated tannins and a savory finish. It's cool, calm and delicious. Drink now.

James Suckling, July 28, 2015

FOOD&WINE

INSPIRATION SERVED DAILY

The Buyer's Guide to 75 of the Best California Wines

2012 Corison Kronos Vineyard Napa Valley - Veteran winemaker Cathy Corison creates this vividly aromatic, cassis-scented Cabernet from low-yielding 30-year-old vines surrounding her winery, off Napa Valley's famed Highway 29 between Rutherford and St. Helena.

Ray Isle, foodandwine.com, September 22, 2016