

# 2014 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon



Harmony and unity define this vintage. With a year in the bottle, the 2014 is beginning to blossom and shine. A warm spring, following one of the driest winters on record, got the ball rolling early with the set of small, concentrated berries. Moving into summer, the remainder of the season was moderate, giving us the long, cool season I hope for. Leaning more toward the darker end of the Cabernet fruit spectrum this year, the wine exhibits plum, black raspberry and blackberry aromas and flavors while maintaining the red cherry core typical of Corison Napa Valley Cabernet. Hints of exotic garrigue include savory thyme, rosemary, violet and rose scents. Minerality adds verve, and top notes of smoke, baking spices, cedar and dark chocolate complete the kaleidoscopic complexity.

- Cathy Corison

## Ten-Year Retrospective Reviews:

**Decanter** **95** The colour is extraordinary, with a dark ruby centre and hints of purple at the rim. What a tremendous wine at 10 years—still so youthful, with dark, crunchy black cherry fruits, blackcurrants, and blackberry jam, all nuanced by tobacco spices, leather, and cedarwood. Full-bodied and framed by soaring, well-integrated tannins, it showcases pure fruit alongside black truffle and white pepper notes through the lengthy, mineral-driven finish. Those tannins build and build, extending the finish. This wine has plenty of time ahead.

*Jonathan Cristaldi, Decanter Magazine, 8 Sep 2024*



**93** The 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley) is terrific. Bold and racy, with gorgeous depth, the Napa Valley Cabernet does not seem like a ten-year-old wine. Dark fruit, leather, game and incense are all front and center. This is such a gorgeous wine. It's even better than it was on release, as it shows a bit more voluptuousness.

*Antonio Galloni, Vinous, January 2025*

## JamesSuckling.com

**94** A zesty, lightly peppery aroma and vivid, complex fruit flavors seem to light up this medium-bodied wine. So much character and depth, while staying lively and mouthwatering. Moderate to full tannins give just the right amount of bite, and add to the sense of freshness and linearity. Drink now or hold.

*JamesSuckling.com, October 11, 2024*



**96** Medium to deep garnet in color with a touch of brick... delicate scents of dried mulberries and cherries, leading to an undercurrent of iron ore, bay leaves, and lavender oil. The medium-bodied palate is packed with energetic red and black berry flavors, supported by grainy tannins and bold freshness, finishing long and minerally. Beautiful!

*Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent, October 10, 2024*

## THE New Wine Review

Very pretty, and how often is that term applied to Napa Cabernet? Purple fruit, ripe blackberry—darker fruits than the '21s—within a very Corison-ian structure of tiny tannins, tannins that are, as it enters its eleventh year, close to being fully resolved. A streak of herbiness flutters throughout and adds complexity. Great harmony and subtlety; delicious now, but still young.

*Jon Fine, The New Wine Review, March 4, 2025*

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## Reviews Upon Release:

# Decanter

### Vintage Report: California Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

**95** Another classic, displaying a pretty bouquet of black cherry... cocoa nib and dried rose. On the palate the wine is intense, nicely concentrated and texturally refined, with good depth and a lovely line of bright acidity which lends a crunchy edge to the fruit. Drink 2020-2040.  
*William Kelley, Decanter, September 2017*

### Premium California wines to buy in 2018

Anne Krebiehl MW picks out 33 exciting Californian wines that impressed her at a recent tasting in London...

**Anne's top picks from the tasting:** Corison, Napa Valley, Cabernet Sauvignon, 2014

*Anne Krebiehl, Decanter, June 5, 2018*

*Jancis Robinson*  
JancisRobinson.com

**17.5+** Spiced aromatics of mixed fruits across a full range of colour – red, blue and black fruits appear here with a constellation of fresh herbs, all of which carry into the palate. The oak usage here is well done, framing the varietal character rather than dominating, instead bringing the earthy and herbal notes of the variety into highlight over a body of fruits and mineral notes. Ferric tones here act as a patina accent. Impressively long finish... This is a delicious, nicely done Corison, as should be expected from the producer. Drink 2018-2030  
*Elaine Chukan Brown, jancisrobinson.com, 22 Mar 2019*



WINE INTEL FROM KAREN MACNEIL

### **Wines to Know:** CORISON Cabernet Sauvignon 2014

**96** If one stellar cabernet is in your future this holiday season, this would be a brilliant option. It's a cabernet of magnificence and beauty, precision and radiance—as though every single molecule in the wine was beaming out delicious flavor. Cathy Corison (who's made wine over more than 40 vintages) has a reputation for exquisitely balanced, complex, long-lived cabernets that exude finesse. You could be forgiven for thinking it was Margaux in a good vintage.

*Karen MacNeil, WineSpeed, December 7, 2018*

*International*  
**WINE REPORT**

**95** Cathy Corison has been on an absolutely incredible run as she is producing some of the most compelling and consistent Cabernet Sauvignon in all of Napa Valley, and her 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon is another simply outstanding effort. As this begins to open it releases a complex range of seductive aromatics, including blackberries and dark currants, which are woven together with spring florals, graphite, spices and crushed stones along with a lovely savory character all taking shape. This well-structured Cabernet continues to impress on the palate with its full-bodied, polished texture and remarkable overall balance and depth, which leads into the long, layered finish. While this is already showing plenty of early appeal, the 2014 is ultimately an age worthy wine, which will thrive in the cellar for well over a decade.

*Joe D'Angelo, International Wine Report, April 2017*



\*\*\*\* The 2014 Napa Valley is velvety in texture and complex in flavor; a stylish, well balanced wine with medium richness and a very long finish. In aroma/flavor, it tastes of black currant, rose petal, cherry, spicy oak, and pepper. *Ronn Wiegand, Restaurant Wine, Issues #172-4, July 2017*



**2014 Corison, Napa Valley** – Medium-dark ruby; attractive, deep, fragrant, dark cherry, cassis and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of mocha and baking spices; full body; deep, rich, textured, red and black fruit flavors with good depth and concentration... **Very highly recommended.**

*Nick Ponomareff, California Grapevine, Issue 43, May 2017*



**93** A classical Napa Valley cabernet, this is bright, from its color straight through its taut line of cherry flavor. There's an herbal aspect, bringing to mind lavender and eucalyptus, spicy, clean and integrated. Firmly built, this is structured for long development in the bottle.

*Wine & Spirits Magazine (8/17)*



**92** The 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley) is dark and powerful, with serious intensity. Cathy Corison's wines usually take a long time to come together, but the 2014 is surprisingly approachable. The effects of the drought are felt in the wine's concentration, and yet all the elements are in the right place. Dark red cherry, plum, licorice and menthol infuse the creamy, voluptuous finish. Deceptively medium in body, the 2014 packs a serious punch. Even so, it will drink well with minimal cellaring.

*Antonio Galloni, Vinous – explore all things wine, December 2016*



**maker's table**

Cathy Corison's St. Helena Cabernet is always 100 percent Cabernet Sauvignon, but don't think of it as standard-issue Napa Cabernet, because it's never that; it has none of the burl or chew of its peers. Close your eyes, instead, and imagine a vaulted room streaked with afternoon sun that catches in glints on shiny knobs and candlesticks, washing scattered vases of roses and lilacs and spare cherry branches in diffused, Dutch Master light.

Her 2014 Cabernet is one of her more floral offerings, its modest garnet color collared by a ruby rim. Its fragrance of roses, red currants, raspberries, and cherries is echoed on the palate. It's flowery, ripe with sweet dusty berries, with a flame of acidity that sets the finish alight. As with all her wines, it is clearly made to age, and ten years or more of bottle bouquet will embroider it with tawny threads. Hold for at least five years, or pair it now with light meats and poultry. But really, hold it.

*Meg Houston Maker, makerstable.com, August 1, 2017*

**JamesSuckling.com**

**93** Aromas of wet earth and spices with sweet tobacco and currants. Fresh herbs. Medium body and ultra-fine tannins. Lively and bright. Better in 2020 but already a joy to drink.

*James Suckling, Friday, January 27, 2017*

**VIEW FROM THE CELLAR**

**92+** The new 2014 Napa Valley cabernet bottling from Cathy Corison smells fairly ripe for this cuvée when it is first opened, though the label comes in at the traditional 13.6 percent octane and the wine settles in nicely once it has had a chance to breath a bit. The bouquet is very expressive right out of the blocks this year, offering up scents of red and black cherries, a touch of blueberry, violets, cigar wrapper, lovely soil tones and a discreet framing of cedary new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and still quite primary, with a nice touch of incipient sappiness at the core, fine-grained tannins and lovely length and grip on the very well-balanced and promising finish. This looks likely to be a very elegant rendition of the Corison Napa bottling in the fullness of time, but tuck this refined Rutherford Bench cabernet away for the next eight to ten years to allow the magic to unfold properly.

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



**CORISON** Napa Valley 2014 “Very much cast in the familiar and very temperate Corison style that favors structure and restraint over flamboyant ripeness and lavish oak, this fairly reserved, firmly built bottling keys on classic Cabernet currants with subtle suggestions of herbs and sweet spice sitting quietly off to the side. It is not overly astringent yet its nominal tannins and youthful tightness prescribe at least five years of age, and, given the winery’s track record for making long-aging wines, we would not be surprised if it continued to gain for a decade or more.

*Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine, August 2017*

**JEB DUNNUCK**

**92** From winemaker Cathy Corison, the straight 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon sports a medium ruby/purple color and offers a very pretty, elegant style in its blue fruits, hints of leafy herbs, and floral aromatics. These give way to a fresh, elegant Cabernet that has light tannin, good concentration, and a balanced, incredibly drinkable style. It should evolve nicely for 15+ years.

*jebdunnuck.com, 12/29/17*



**96** The 2014 Corison ‘Napa Valley’ Cabernet Sauvignon is a monumental wine made by superstar winemaker Cathy Corison. The nose is simply stunning and highly perfumed with shades of lavender and violets mingle with cassis, anise and black cherry syrup. The palate is fresh and refined, showing good restraint and balance yet evoking a wonderfully plush mouthfeel. Tar, leather, and dusty terroir mingle with creme de cassis and black licorice all permeate on the palate. This marvelous wine is peaking now and has an exceedingly long life left.

*Owen Bargreen, Washington Wine Blog, August 3, 2019*



**92** The nose is graphite-laden fresh blackberry with underlying notes of herb-flecked currant. The palate is lively and youthful black fruit, carbon and mint. Though everything is well integrated it will benefit from time in the cellar. Drink 2019 - 2035.

*Doug Wilder, purely domestic wine report, Volume 6.1, October 2017*