

2014 Corison Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon



Budbreak came early in 2014 due to a warm spring, and the vines set tiny berries following one of the driest winters on record. Moving into summer, the weather turned mild, giving us a perfect long, cool ripening season. The result was dark, concentrated wines that exhibit a singular gravitas. Our inaugural single-vineyard Sunbasket Cabernet Sauvignon displays the characteristic bright cherries I expect from this vineyard, joined by rich raspberry and cassis nuance. Supple, velvety tannins, stony minerality, and hints of baking spices and anise round out the juicy flavors. Exuberant floral notes of violets and dried roses jump out of the glass, dancing with the fruit. With more than a year in the bottle, this wine is blossoming into its first, fruit-driven peak.

- Cathy Corison, November 2017



95 The 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Sunbasket Vineyard shows the extroverted side of this site so well. Ripe and effusive, the 2014 offers up copious dark red-toned fruit, cedar, spice and pipe tobacco. Succulent fruit and plush, silky tannins are classic Sunbasket. This is St. Helena in a bottle.

Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*, January 2025

Decanter

96 Cathy Corison was the first woman winemaker in the Napa Valley to own her own winery. She's usually one of the earliest to pick, and her wines are known for their understated elegance. The wine comes from a vineyard (now owned by Corison) which the great winemaker André Tchelistcheff used to call a 'sunbasket'. The Cabernet is silky and exquisitely pure-tasting, with lively flavors evocative of fresh-chilled cherries and exotic spices. Wonderful structure and delineation, and very long.

Karen MacNeil, *Decanter*, 27 March 2019



95 The 2014 Cabernet Sauvignon Sunbasket Vineyard is a new wine that emerges from a St. Helena vineyard that has long been a component in the Napa Valley Cabernet. Dark red cherry, plum, mint, rose petal and licorice give the 2014 its explosive, racy personality. Exuberant and racy, in style, the 2014 is a truly glorious wine that manages to be ripe and also retain notable freshness. This is a fabulous showing.

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



WINE INTEL FROM KAREN MACNEIL

TEN OF THE GREATEST NAPA VALLEY CABERNET SAUVIGNONS

97 From a vineyard in St. Helena (which the great winemaker Andre Tchelistcheff used to call a sunbasket) comes this exquisitely pure-tasting cabernet with flavors evocative of fresh-chilled cherries and lively exotic spices. Explosive yet beautiful and very long.

Karen MacNeil, *Wine Speed*, May 17, 2019



✿✿ CORISON Sunbasket Vineyard St. Helena 2014

Long a vineyard that the winery has used as part of its Napa Valley effort, the Sunbasket property has been purchased by Corison and now makes its debut as its own stand-alone bottling. And quite a debut it is with ripe, layered yet still nascent aromas that will take their own time to find full voice. Not surprisingly, the wine is both somewhat supple and noticeably firm and structured on the palate, and signals that its black cherry and currant flavors are still some years away from showing at their best. This is the kind of wine that deserves to be allowed to rest in a cool, dark place for up to a decade.

Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine, December 2017

JamesSuckling.com

94 Blueberries and blackberries with hints of bark and mushrooms. Full body, firm and velvety tannins and a long and flavorful finish. All about balance and focus. Firm with attractive austerity. Drink or hold.

James Suckling, *Friday*, January 27, 2017

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

95 The inaugural release of Corison cabernet sauvignon from the Sunbasket Vineyard is outstanding. The bouquet is pure, nascently complex and utterly classic, wafting from the glass in a youthful blend of black cherries, a touch of mulberry, Cuban cigar wrapper, Rutherford Dust, lovely soil tones and a discreet framing of spicy new wood. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and utterly refined in profile, with a lovely core of fruit, excellent nascent soil signature, fine-grained tannins and outstanding focus and grip on the very long, perfectly balanced and nascently complex finish. This is a tad less powerful in personality than Cathy's old vine Kronos Vineyard bottling, but it may well be every bit as good in a different, more understated style. A stunning new addition to the Corison Winery lineup!

John Gilman, View from the Cellar, Issue #70, July-August 2017



2014 Corison, "Sunbasket Vineyard," St. Helena, Napa Valley (\$175)

92 Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, deep, herbal, blueberry and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of mocha, red licorice, dried herbs, and spicy oak; full body; elegant, spicy, cassis and dark berry fruit flavors with good depth, firm structure, bright acidity, and excellent balance; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Deserves a good five years of bottle aging. **Very highly recommended.**

Nick Ponomareff, California Grapevine, Issue 43, November 2017

terroir REVIEW

Inky ruby red color. Aromas of red licorice, violets, anise, black cherry, red currant. Acidity is profound, attenuated. Flavors of red cherry steeped with fennel and basil. Tannins are supple, integrated, non-drying. **Light-hearted, a dancer.**

Meg Houston Maker, terroirreview.com, June 14, 2021

terroir REVIEW

The 2014 Sunbasket Cabernet is lovely now but made to age; Corison suggests her wines begin to hit their stride after about a decade. Limpid garnet color with a fuchsia rim, it's suffused with a floral fragrance mingling rose, violet, iris, and lily of the valley. The structure is elegant, a fine-boned armature built of acidity and tannin and modest alcohol that frames its shiny cassis and dried strawberry fruit. The finish is flowery, too, as the violet petals drift back in. Hold it if you can. Otherwise pair it with lean and delicate meats.

Meg Houston Maker, terroirreview.com, May 22, 2018

International WINE REPORT

96 The 2014 Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is an absolutely marvelous showing from Cathy Corison. Instantly bursting open with seductive aromatics of dark cherries, blueberries, violets, graphite and hints of sweet spices, which all soar from the glass. The full-bodied palate is simply stunning, displaying remarkable overall balance, focus and concentration. It continues to impress with its incredible velvety, plush texture, with penetrating flavors of blue fruits, violets and graphite, which expand seamlessly through the supple finish. This is a total success, and should continue to thrive in the cellar for years to come.

Joe D'Angelo, International Wine Report, August, 2017

Wine & Spirits MAGAZINE

Corison 2014 St. Helena Napa Valley Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon

91 Basking in full-on richness, this tastes like the juice of ripe fresh cherries, a pretty cabernet with some austere wood tannins, and plenty of sweet fruit to fill them. That fruit darkens as the wine evolves, bringing scents of candied blueberries and blackberries. This needs time for the tannins and fruit to meld, though the texture is already gracious.

wineandspiritsmagazine.com, 10/17

RESTAURANT WINE

The Full Service Guide to On-Site Beverage Profits



★★★★+ The Sunbasket is a FIRST RELEASE (grapes from Sunbasket have long gone into the Napa Valley bottling). It is a delicious wine: round, full, and very generously flavored Cabernet (blackberry, cassis, kola nut, tobacco, chocolate, spicy oak), with fine balance, and a long, harmonious finish.

Ronn Wiegand, Restaurant Wine, Issues #178-180, September 2018