

# 2015 Corison *Kronos Vineyard* Cabernet Sauvignon



The 2015 is delicious. It is the 20th vintage of Kronos to market! I couldn't be prouder of all the lovely wines Kronos Vineyard has helped us create. That spring, rainy weather at flowering and set resulted in a very small crop, concentrating flavors. Moving into summer it was very warm, bringing in one of the earliest vintages ever.

At first glance, the 2015 leans more toward the bright red currant and cherry end of the Cabernet Sauvignon flavor spectrum. With time in the glass, it blossoms with the darker black raspberry, plum, cassis and boysenberry fruit that I associate with Kronos Vineyard. All that fruit plays nicely with baking spice notes. Present is the typical hint of peppermint and dusty mineral twist, along with nice aromas of forest floor and fresh mushroom. Trademark floral perfume, a full mouth feel and long finish complete the picture. ~ Cathy Corison, March 2019

## 10-Year Retrospective Reviews:



**95** The 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Kronos Vineyard is quite the powerhouse, just as it was on release. At ten years of age, the Kronos is quite elegant, but it also shows signs of maturity that suggest its best drinking will be over the next ten years. In this vintage, the Kronos has a brighter, more red-toned fruit profile than is often the case. Hints of blood orange, pomegranate and mint lift the finish. What a gorgeous and sensual wine. *Antonio Galloni, Vinous, November 2025*

**Decanter** **96** This vintage is in a lovely place, striking the right balance between deliciously juicy, plump dark berry fruit and savoury dried herbs. Crushed walnuts and cacao nibs add depth, while the medium- to full-bodied palate carries an incredible thread of bright, fresh, crunchy acidity. The superfine tannins are perfectly integrated, supporting a mineral intensity that lingers through the long, generous finish layered with wild herb nuances. (Among a 25-vintage vertical tasted at The Progress in San Francisco in October 2024.) *Jonathan Cristaldi, Decanter, 27 October 2024*

## JamesSuckling.com

**96** This beauty is joyful, vibrant and deep at age 10. Shows just the beginning of bottle bouquet on the nose, offering light earth and tobacco aromas over good, concentrated black cherry, black currant, black olive, new leather and savory sage flavors. Great balance from lively acidity and bracing tannins results in an elegant, streamlined texture. *Jim Gordon, jessuckling.com, Aug 13, 2025*



**94** Somehow, Corison's 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Kronos Vineyard smells like cherry cobbler, complete with hints of cinnamon and brown sugar, yet it isn't sweet or over-the-top at all, being built in the classic Corison mold—restrained, medium-bodied and silky-textured. There's just a hint of leather-like evolution that peeks through on the lingering finish, along with even more mouthwatering cherries. *Joe Czerwinski, Wine Advocate, Oct 2, 2025*

## Reviews Upon Release:

**Jancis Robinson** **18** Deep ruby in colour. Sweet blackcurrant, black cherry and savoury, toasted spices on the nose. Very refined on the palate, with super-sweet tannins for a velveteen texture and pure driven cassis at the core. Great intensity builds through the mid palate but this remains ethereal and elegant throughout with fresh acidity and moderate alcohol. Great drive and length on the finish. Subtle but superb, with the best yet to come. *Tom Parker for jancisrobinson.com, 13 November 2019*



**95** A dark, brooding wine, the 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Kronos Vineyard packs a serious punch. Even so, the tannins are pretty soft for such a young Corison Cabernet. The 2015 lacks the sweet explosiveness of some previous editions, but it more than compensates with its pure sensuality and open-knit appeal. *Antonio Galloni, Vinous – explore all things wine, January 2018*

*Jancis Robinson*  
JancisRobinson.com

**17.5+** Ruby-black core to ruby edges. Star bright in the glass. Pretty aromatics of dried lavender, gunpowder, dried roses, and cedar carry into the palate. Nice balance of structure to flavour here... A lovely wine. Ample, powder-fine tannin mean this vintage again strikes that balance of being more approachable than the tannin would likely imply while having sufficient tannin load to evolve quite well and for a long time in bottle. Accents of exotic perfume, blooming roses, ruby-red grapefruit and pomelo, gunpowder and iron, and crystalline earthiness through a long finish. Wonderful vintage. Just a bit of chocolate-cherry liqueur here currently will deepen and evolve with time in bottle. While the wine offers quite a bit now it will reveal far more with age.

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

## Decanter Top California Cabernet 2015 wines

**94** Cathy Corison continues to coax ridiculously tiny yields of grapes from her 50-year-old Kronos Vineyard, and holds strong to her belief that overripeness wipes out varietal character. She harvests relatively early to preserve the leafy herb, cedar, tobacco leaf and blackcurrant character inherent in Cabernet grapes, and the result in this vintage is a wine with impeccable balance and longevity.

*Linda Murphy, Decanter, California tastings, 23 Jul 2018*

## JamesSuckling.com

Top 100 American Wines of 2018

**96** Phenomenal aromas of dried flowers, pine nuts, bark, wet earth and currants. Boysenberries, too. Changes all the time. Peppermint tea, blue fruit and crushed stones. Full body with integrated and chewy tannins. Yet, so tight and refined. Shows a linear line through the center. An old-vine cab that needs two or three years to come together.

*James Suckling, May 2018*

**Wine & Spirits**  
MAGAZINE

**94** This wine's unpretentious beauty comes into focus over the course of several days. At first, it reflects the black-fruited ripeness of St. Helena fruit, soft, supple and clean. From there, it's a slow build toward the complexity of fruit from Kronos's deep-rooted vines—phylloxera survivors from 1971. The fruit moves through red notes of cranberries and cassis toward silky tannins that feel light and youthful. It's a wine of classical proportions and simple grace.

*Wine & Spirits Magazine (12/18)*

## WINE ENTHUSIAST

**95** This is among winemaker Cathy Corison's finest offerings, made from decades-old vines planted on St. George rootstock. Cassis, red currant and floral elements make for an inviting entry of aromatics that is followed by substantial structure and classic herbal undertones. A pillowy body of balanced elegance is met by an earthy, leathery finish of complex beauty.

*winemag.com, 3.1.19*

**Wine Spectator**

**93** A juicy, bright, slightly high-pitched style, with red currant, pomegranate and damson fruit notes laced with light graphite, anise and briar accents. The resulting contrast gives this a racy, distinctive feel. Lovely length.

*James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, Apr 30, 2019*

## purely domestic wine report

**95** The nose is a bit more lush and savory yet rivetingly floral with currant and ripe berry. The palate is forward black grape and herb, lavender and currant with a solid tannin backbone.

*Doug Wilder, Issue 7.4*

**CONNOISSEURS' GUIDE**  
TO CALIFORNIA WINE



Those familiar with this winery will recognize Cathy Corison's slightly lighter touch with Cabernet here, but the wine sports considerable fruity depth with carefully placed accents of mildly creamy oak and loamy soil affording it a good deal of varietal complexity. It is full and slightly supple on entry with a proper push of firming tannins pointing the way to a promising future, and it sacrifices nothing in the way of richness or range while taking a measured step back from bombast. Let it sit for another four or five years and anticipate another half-decade or more of guaranteed growth from there.

*Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine, April 2019*

California **GRAPEVINE**

**2015 Corison**, "Kronos Vineyard," Napa Valley

Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, ripe, fragrant, cassis, dark cherry and boysenberry fruit aroma with hints of dried herbs, baking spice, and dark chocolate; full body; intense, textured, cedary, red and dark fruit flavors that are elegantly

styled, and nicely balanced and structured to support a good five more year of bottle aging; full tannin; lingering aftertaste.

**Very highly recommended.**

*Nick Ponomareff, California Wine, Volume 45, May 2019*

**VIEW FROM THE CELLAR 95+** The new release of Cathy Corison's Kronos Vineyard cabernet sauvignon is always one of the great harbingers of spring, and the new 2015 vintage of this outstanding bottling is exceptional in quality. The wine is nicely cool in 2015, coming in at a refined 13.2 percent octane and the wine offers up its customary precision and youthful aromatic beauty in its constellation of black cherries, sweet cassis, cigar wrapper, Rutherford Dust, incipient notes of allspice, a superb base of soil and a discreet framing of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, pure and seamlessly balanced, with its full-bodied format harboring ripe tannins, a great mid-palate core, lovely mineral drive and a very long, poised and focused finish. There is nothing flashy here, but this is emphatically a great, great bottle of cabernet in the making that is built for the long haul and it will be criminal to open it before it has had a minimum of a decade of hibernation in the cellar. In the fullness of time, this seems likely to be one of Cathy's greatest vintages of Kronos! 2030-2080+. *John Gilman, View from the Cellar, Issue #79, January-February 2019*



★★★★★ An exceptional 2015 Cabernet, in the classic Napa style. It is full bodied, well balanced, and concentrated, but not ultra-ripe in flavor. Rather, it is optimally ripe and very distinct in character (black currant, cherry, cassis, black olive, rose petal), with toasty, tobacco-like, spicy oak overtones and a very long, moderately tannic finish. Can be aged.

Best ever version of this wine.

*Ronn Wiegand, Restaurant Wine, Issues 184-186*



**96** Cathy Corison has crafted a simply magnificent set of wines in 2015, and the most impressive is the Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon. Sourced from an 8-acre parcel, located on the valley floor in St. Helena, which is comprised of old Saint-George rootstocks that were planted back in

1971. This brilliant wine begins with seductive aromas of ripe blackberries and currants woven together with fresh spring florals, graphite and crushed stones all taking shape in the glass. On the palate this classy wine has it all, balanced, structured and complex, with remarkable precision and focus. It's beautifully concentrated with gorgeous underlying acidity keeping it fresh and inviting leading up to the long, polished finish. All being said, this is an utterly fascinating and impeccably made wine, which without question should age gracefully for decades. *Joe D'Angelo, International Wine Report, May 2018*



**93** The nose is fruity, fresh and offers concentration. It reveals notes of cassis, crushed boysenberry and small notes of crushed raspberry combined with fine hints of liquorice, tobacco as well as an imperceptible touch of Cuban pepper. The palate is fruity, well-balanced, elegant, silky and offers a good juiciness, an acid frame, a very slight richness (in the background), a good freshness as well as finesse. On the palate this wine expresses notes of juicy blackberry, juicy cassis and small notes of liquorice / Zan associated with discreet touches of dark chocolate/tonka bean as well as subtle hints of racy minerality. Tannins are fine and very slightly chewy. There are slight hints of dark chocolate on the persistence.

*Jonathan Choukroun Chicportiche, Vert de Vin, 5/2018*



#### **Wine of the Day, August 9, 2019**

**97** The 2015 Kronos delivers a rich and inky dark Cabernet Sauvignon with layers of classic blackberry, plum, succulent currant, kirsch and blueberry fruit along with a touch of spice, sweet cedar notes, a hint of violets, vanilla and with cinnamon and licorice. The mouth feel is impressive and this wine has a gripping personality that holds your attention on the lengthy finish and the aftertaste goes on for days. The tannins are ripe, as they tend to be in warm years, but as always in Corison's wine they hold everything together and there is a brightness that makes this young and forceful Cabernet Sauvignon sing, and gives me a certainty of further greatness in the years ahead, without question this wine holds a treasure of rewards for those who have patience. This Kronos, like the famed Ridge Monte Bello, and the recently reviewed Diamond Creek Gravelly Meadow, looks set to be a contender for classic status in the cellar, it should age wonderfully and stay in its prime for decades. The bouquet shows fresh fruits, floral tones and a smoky wood note, and with air some loam, savory sage and tobacco leaf emerge adding complexity and with robust cuisine this wine shows off, it really benefits from decanting at this stage, allowing it to stretch its legs and the food melts the tannins. *Kerry Winslow, grapelive.com, August 9, 2019*