

# 2015 Corison *Sunbasket Vineyard* Cabernet Sauvignon



Heat in the spring set the stage for an early season. Then May turned cold at flowering which resulted in a small crop, made even smaller by the ongoing drought. The resulting scraggly clusters of tiny berries were intensely delicious. Heat in August and September brought the grapes in for one of the earliest harvests on record. Vibrant, fresh and energetic, this wine is sunshine in a bottle. Black-raspberry pastille, boysenberry and raspberry freezer jam jump out of the glass, accompanied by baking spices and cumin. Earth and minerals join violet perfume to lift the aromas, and polished tannins contribute a full, smooth texture.

- Cathy Corison



## Top 100 Wines of 2018

### 95 Corison 2015 St. Helena Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon

André Tchelistcheff originally planted this vineyard for Beaulieu and, three decades ago, Cathy Corison began working with fruit from the site, just north of her winery on the west side of Highway 29. She purchased the vineyard in 2014. That year, it was the cabernet franc that showed remarkable briskness and cool spice. In 2015, it's the cabernet sauvignon that shines, with that coolness of deep-rooted cabernet harvested at the right time. It's full and lush, the flavors extending into a savory, red-fruited finish, meaty and rich rather than sweet. Its concentration doesn't get in the way of its dynamic energy, which brings out floral notes and cool spice, lasting with gentle grace. *Wine & Spirits Magazine, 8/18*



93 The 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Sunbasket Vineyard is pliant, racy and inviting, as wines from this site tend to be. Soft contours wrap around a core of red-toned fruit, cedar, new leather, menthol and dried herbs... Floral and savory overtones have become more pronounced with age. *Antonio Galloni, Vinous, November 2025*



### CORISON Sunbasket Vineyard St. Helena 2015

Long a champion of restraint rather than an adherent of ripe and blustery wines, winemaker Cathy Corison has come up with yet another sleek and stylish wine of concise, curranty fruit backed by discreet oak. It lacks for nothing in the way of substance and structure, and it evokes an ongoing sense of seriousness with the kind of tannic spine to age and last for many years. It is just astringent enough to command waiting and will need a good half-decade of patience before fully unfolding... it exhibits great presence and staying power. *Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine, August 2018*



94 Corison's 2015 Cabernet Sauvignon Sunbasket Vineyard offers lovely brightness and aromatic intensity in its red-toned fruit. Silky and voluptuous, the 2015 has a lot to offer. This is an especially racy Cabernet, and yet all the elements fall into place effortlessly. *Antonio Galloni, Vinous, January 2018*

**JamesSuckling.com** 94 Lots of dried flowers with blackberry and blackcurrant character in the nose. Medium body, a very tight and focused palate and a beautiful finish. Reserved and held back now but will open beautifully in a year or two. *James Suckling, May 2018*

## WINEENTHUSIAST

### 96 Corison 2015 Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon (St. Helena)

Made from a site planted in the 1950s by the grand wine wizard André Tchelistcheff, this wine is remarkable in its gravelly mineral character and well-managed tannin profile. Soft supple texture is complemented by focused layers of savory red fruit and lifted acidity. Enjoyable now, it has structure to age. Enjoy best 2020-2030. *Wine Enthusiast, 11/1/18*



93 Features a lively floral note bouncing throughout, while red and black currant, cherry and plum compote flavors form the core. The structure is sleek and refined, and the finish has a pure feel. Will cellar well. Best from 2020 through 2035. 200 cases made. *James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, Apr 30, 2019*

## Decanter Top California Cabernet 2015 Wines

**92** Corison's relatively recent purchase of a vineyard she named Sunbasket has deeper fruit aromas and flavours than her estate bottling, yet at just 13.9% alcohol. It shines, with a juicy cherry and blackcurrant core and notes of black olive, forest floor and mint, with judicious oak and lively acidity.

*Linda Murphy, Decanter, California tastings, 08 Jul 2018*

## terroir REVIEW

Inky ruby red color. Aromas of fennel, anise, washed linen, black cherry, cassis. Palate suggests black cherry; darkly fruity, less red fruit, less acidity than the 2014. The finish is earthy... There is a flare of basil and sous-bois at the finish. **Brooding, a poet.**

*Meg Maker, Terroir Review, June 14, 2021*



**92** 2015 Corison, "Sunbasket Vineyard," St. Helena, Napa Valley  
Medium-dark purplish ruby; attractive, assertive, red cherry, raspberry, and dark berry fruit aroma with hints of dried herbs, cassis, and spicy oak; full

body; rich, ripe, nicely balanced, stylish, bright, red and dark berry fruit flavors with hints of baking spices, supported with vibrant acidity, and finishes with a velvety mouthfeel; full, though well under control tannin; lingering aftertaste. Shows elegance and some complexity that should reward another three to five years of aging. **Very highly recommended.**

*Nick Ponomareff, California Grapevine, Volume 44, June 2018*

## purely domestic wine report

**94** The nose is deeper and denser though maintains elegance of sweet fragrant lavender. The palate is a saturated sweetness of pure fruit, black current, plum skin and violet.

*Doug Wilder, Issue 7.4*

## International WINE REPORT

**95** The 2015 Sunbasket Cabernet Sauvignon is simply striking. It begins with highly perfumed aromas of currants and blackberries laced with fresh spring florals, graphite and minerals all soaring from the glass. This continues to impress on the palate with its outstanding structure and beautifully polished tannins, along with a fantastic combination of ripe fruit and fresh acidity. It shows remarkable purity and class as it finishes with lovely finesse. This is a total beauty from Cathy Corison in this vintage.

*Joe D'Angelo, International Wine Report, May, 2018*

## VertdeVin

MAGAZINE & WEBSITE FOR WINE & SPIRITS LOVERS

**93-94** The nose is fruity, fresh and offers concentration as well as a richness. It reveals notes of cassis, blackberry and small notes of strawberry associated with a discreet hint of black cherry as well as subtle hints of cocoa, sweet spices and an imperceptible hint of violet. The palate is fruity, fresh, mineral, well-balanced and offers a good definition, an acid frame, minerality, a good volume, fat, suavity, a small concentration as well as roundness. On the palate this wine expresses notes of black cherry, cassis and small notes of blackberry associated with small touches of wild strawberry, ripe juicy redcurrants as well as subtle hints of liquorice, tea, flowers, chocolate and a very discreet touch of blond tobacco. Tannins are fine and very slightly firm.

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

## grapelive.com

**96** The Sunbasket 2015 is openly rich and opulent from the first moment your senses come close and the nose is full of the floral bouquet along with blackberries and spices before a cascade of pure Cabernet Sauvignon fruits fills the mouth with black current, plum, boysenberry and blueberry along with hints of coco, tobacco leaf, cinnamon, sage/anise, sandalwood as well as a touch of smoky oak notes and vanilla. Everything flows nicely together and the sweet tannin holds it all in fine balance. While a bigger framed Cab, it is graceful and lively with a sensual texture and fantastic length with heaviness. This brilliant effort is going to thrill Corison fans and it will drink incredibly for decades to come, it is a perfect sister wine to Cathy's signature Kronos! What a wine, and what a year, bravo Cathy for your hall of fame career and this great new wine to celebrate with.

*Grapelive.com, Kerry Winslow, December 31, 2019*