

2016 Corison *Kronos Vineyard* Cabernet Sauvignon



A textbook season, warm weather in April kick-started the 2016 vintage on the early side, followed by a moderate July and very cool August. Typical of our autumn weather, a late warm spell brought the vintage home. With nary a day over 100F from *veraison* through harvest, nighttime lows were downright cold all summer, preserving good natural acidity and enabling inky color and singular complexity for the win.

The 2016 boasts immensely complex fruit flavors with more of the bright red and blue end of the Cabernet spectrum than in some vintages. Black cherry, blueberry, elderberry and plum join the characteristic blackberry and boysenberry notes for a kaleidoscope of aromas. Floral perfume of violets and lilac chime in, with baking spices, dried herbs, cocoa nibs and wet-stone minerality adding yet more layers of harmony. Like the voices in an accomplished choir, the blend is seamless. As always, the tannins are abundant and feel like velvet and the finish goes on and on. This wine displays remarkable unity.

- Cathy Corison, March 2020

Reviews from our 25-Year Kronos Retrospective Tasting:

Decanter **98** Framed by a superstructure of robust tannins and a backbone of crunchy, bracing acidity, the 2016 Kronos remains wholly compact as of October 2024, with a freshness factor that is hard to beat. Shy out of magnum, it reveals dark currant fruits, dusty minerals, sage, and sandalwood. Full-bodied, with pixelated tannins that coat the palate, further enriching the textural experience. A deep core of dark berry fruit, saline minerals, and crushed cacao nibs builds in intensity. Pressed flowers, loamy earth, and black truffles fuel the extended finish, underscoring the wine's remarkable depth and longevity. (Among a 25-vintage vertical tasted at The Progress in San Francisco in October 2024.)

Jonathan Cristaldi, Decanter, 27 Oct, 2024



Gorgeous purity. Blue and purple fruits coming in waves. Spicy and savory flavors emerging. Utterly silky.

Karen MacNeil, WineSpeed.com, December 6, 2024



The Majesty of Time: 25 Years of Corison's Kronos Cabernet

Dark garnet in the glass, this wine smells of black cherry and blackcurrant with hints of floral overtones. In the mouth, gorgeous, electric acidity makes blackcurrant and black cherry flavors come alive as floral notes and citrus peel mix with dried flowers. Gauzy, powdery tannins hang wispy in the background. Intense acidity and depth. 13.3% alcohol. 590 cases made. "This was a perfect vintage," says Corison. Score: around **9.5**.

Alder Yarrow, Vinography, December 3, 2024

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Reviews Upon Release:



97 The 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Kronos is a thrilling, riveting wine that captures all the vintage has to offer. A vertical spine of tannin gives the wine shape and vibrancy. Powerful and dense, with tremendous concentration, the 2016 bristles with energy. The interplay of rich fruit and classic structure makes for an absolutely compelling wine. Readers will have to be patient, starting with the fact that the 2016 won't be released until 2019 or possibly even 2020. This is a positively stunning wine from Cathy Corison.

Antonio Galloni, Vinous, Dec 2018

JamesSuckling.com - Top 100 Wines of the USA in 2019

97 One of the great, contemporary interpretations of Napa cabernet, this has a stunning nose of ripe cassis and plums with delicate cocoa-powder, licorice and sage notes. Very concentrated but also super-bright and really graceful, as it glides over the palate. This has minerality that's rare in California, adding an extra element of vitality to the very long finish. Only 13.3 percent alcohol. Drink or hold.

James Suckling, May 3, 2019



Cathy Corison has steadfastly held to the idea that big is not always best when it comes to complex and articulate Cabernet Sauvignons, and her latest Kronos Vineyard bottling features lithe and lively currant and black cherry fruit lightly seasoned with oak and touches of varietal

herbaceousness. It is far less flashy and boldly ripened than the lion's share of its bigger Napa Valley neighbors, and it is an elegantly balanced expression that speaks directly to the nuance inherent in fine, slightly lighter, less-opulent Cabernets.

Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine, December 2019

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon "Kronos Vineyard" (Rutherford Bench)

96 Cathy Corison's 2016 vintage from the Kronos Vineyard comes in at a refined 13.3 percent octane and looks destined to be one of the legendary vintages of this great, old vine cuvée. The bouquet wafts from the glass in a very elegant constellation of black cherries, cassis, Cuban cigar wrapper, a gorgeous base of soil, those signature Rutherford Bench scents of allspice, gentle smokiness and a very refined base of new oak. On the palate the wine is very precise, full-bodied and suave in profile, with a great core of perfectly ripe fruit, beautiful undertow from the soil, fine-grained, ripe tannins and stunning length and grip on the nascently complex, seamless and dancing finish. This is classically balanced for long aging and, as a result, is fairly tightly-knit out of the blocks, but with sufficient bottle age, there is nothing but magic that awaits! To my palate, this is one of Cathy's most brilliant wines of her career, and she has been on a hot streak since Reagan was president! 2028-2085.

John Gilman, View from the Cellar, Jan-Feb 2020, Issue #85



94 Distinctive, featuring a vivid stream of damson plum, boysenberry and black cherry puree flavors that are seamlessly layered, flecked with a floral note and carrying through to a mineral-tinted finish. Ripe, but with a sense of grace and detail atypical for this vintage. Approachable for all its charm, but has the refinement to develop a bit more in the cellar.

James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, Oct. 31, 2020

vinography

The Soul of Refinement: Recent & Upcoming Releases from Corison Winery, Napa

Dark garnet in the glass, this wine smells of dusty earth, dried herbs, and dried flowers. In the mouth, gorgeously refined notes of black cherry and cassis mix with dried flowers and road dust. The texture here is lovely, with delicate, fine-grained tannins that billow like gauze in the mouth, as the juicy berry flavors get a tinge of citrus peel brightness as they finish but also a savory, salinity that adds an umami kick to this wine. Fantastic acidity. Delicious now but in 5-10 years, watch out. 13.3% alcohol. Score: **around 9.5**.

Alder Yarrow, vinography.com, August 25, 2021

WINEENTHUSIAST

95 – Cellar Selection Given 20 months in French oak, half of it new, this is a remarkably supple, complex and elegantly crafted wine from the great site, a monument to the happy marriage between winemaker and site, the latter still on St. George rootstock and over four-decades old in age. Cedar, rose, tangy currant and ash ride along a thread of crisp, persistent acidity and thick tannin. This wine will do well in the cellar; enjoy best from 2026–2031.

Virginie Boone, winemag.com, 5/1/20

purely domestic wine report 94 The nose is blackberry and a somewhat tarry sap with shadings of cocoa and brown spice. The palate is a very direct firmly-textured black currant with supple shadings of violet with firm blackberry on the finish.

Doug Wilder, purely domestic wine report, Issue 7.4



93 Dark purplish ruby; attractive, forward, ripe, fragrant, dark cherry, and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of dried herbs, cassis, baking spices, and mocha; full body; rich, ripe, nicely balanced and showing some elegance, red and dark fruit

flavors with some plushness in the mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Deserves a good three to five more years of bottle aging. **Very highly recommended.**

Nick Ponomareff, California Grapevine, Vol. 46, February 2020



The Kronos is outstanding: a ripe, full bodied, structured Cabernet with complex aromas/flavors (blackberry, black currant, cassis, rose petal, tobacco, toast, oak), good balance, and a very long, persistent finish. The best Kronos yet.

Ronn Wiegand, Restaurant Wine, February 2020, Issues #187-9

JEB DUNNUCK

Moving to the two luxury cuvées, the 2016 Cabernet Sauvignon Kronos Vineyard is all Cabernet from a single vineyard outside of St. Helena. A bigger, richer wine, it offers more plums, spice box, dried herbs, and incense notes in a rounder, layered, nicely concentrated package. It's another classic effort from this estate that has loads to love.

jebdunnuck.com, 1/31/19



All structure for now... fruit is sweet red cherry, hibiscus and plum... with the dark savor of tobacco and bitter chocolate. The pre-phylloxera cabernet vines at Kronos date to 1971 and are some of the oldest thriving in Napa Valley; they deliver a concentrated wine...

Wine & Spirits Magazine (10/19)



Top 100 Wines of 2019, #34

98 The 2016 Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is an absolutely magical release from Cathy Corison. This immediately begins to impress as it opens to incredibly perfumed aromatics of ripe dark currants and black cherries, which are woven together with fresh violets, graphite shavings, exotic spices, herbs and earthy minerals that all come together and burst from the glass. On the palate this is full-bodied and remarkably polished, with absolutely incredible overall balance and structure. This stunning Cabernet goes on to impress with its wonderful concentration, precision and beautifully pure ripe dark fruits that continue to captivate the senses as they build up to the gorgeous finish. Corison's wines are always masterful display of both power, elegance and sheer class, and there is certainly no exception with this brilliant wine. The 2016 Kronos is clearly one of the finest wines from the entire vintage and there is no doubt it should have an incredibly bright future ahead for many years to come.

J. D'Angelo, International Wine Report, December 2019