



CORISON
NAPA VALLEY

1996 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

Tasting Notes from the 25 Vintage Retrospective Tasting

Dark red with some bricking at the edges. Ripe plum, hints of peppermint, tobacco and floral perfume on the nose. Mouthful of dark, brooding black cherry and blackberry flavors. Hint of tar. Drink or hold.

~ Cathy Corison, October 2014

Tasting Notes Upon Release

The 1996 Corison Cabernet is graced with a label commemorating our tenth vintage. Spring that year was very wet, causing considerable shatter at flowering which resulted in a fairly small crop. Though it started with a very warm spring and hot summer, 1996 made a turn for the better at *veraison* (berry softening and color change, when ripening and flavor development begins). The nights got cold and the daytime temperatures moderated, yielding a wine with remarkable concentration and color. Dark red fruits including plums, black cherries and blackberries dominate the jammy aromas and flavors with loads of spice and hints of vanilla, chocolate and anise adding complexity. The texture is lush with soft, round tannins. Our trademark floral perfume of violets is beginning to emerge. This wine promises many years of enjoyment.

~ Cathy Corison, August 1999

Retrospective Reviews

VINOGRAPHY: a wine blog

Wine and food adventures in San Francisco and around the world

Medium to dark ruby in the glass, this wine smells of sweet mocha and dried flowers and forest floor. In the mouth, the wine has a creamy brightness with a gorgeous milk chocolate and dried cherry quality. The tannins are billowy and broad and voluminous, and linger through the finish with a loamy forest floor quality. Excellent acidity still vibrates in the wine. 12.8% alcohol.

Score: between **9 and 9.5**

Alder Yarrow, *vinography.com*, 6/27/15

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

94 The 1996 vintage produced a small crop, due to problems at flowering, and first half of year was hot; cooler days and nights from veraison forward made the vintage into an absolute classic. This was the 10th Anniversary bottling for Ms. Corison and the wine is aging beautifully, wafting from the glass in a blossoming constellation of black cherries, cassis, cigar smoke, Rutherford Bench spice tones redolent of allspice and nutmeg, incipient notes of chipotles and a discreet base of vanillin oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, with a lovely focus and balance, a fine core of fruit, moderate tannins and excellent length and grip on the complex finish. Starting to drink well today, the 1996 Corison cabernet sauvignon will continue to age gracefully for another thirty years. 2015-2045+.

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

Napa Valley Then & Now

A very aristocratic wine, the 1996 Corison starts out tight but unfolds beautifully in the decanter. Upright and mineral-laden, the wine displays a very floral nose with notes of anise, peppercorn, garden mulch, and some mint. On the palate it is elegant and long, with chalky tannins.

Kelli White, 2015

Jancis Robinson
JancisRobinson.com

Corison - California Cabernet with Subtlety

...Black cherry, dried herbs and cinnamon spice dominate the nose; the palate mirrors the aromas, with cola and new-leather notes, and very refreshing acidity. Lingering finish, with drink-now charm and also a future in the cellar.

Linda Murphy, *JancisRobinson.com*, February 8, 2007

John Winthrop Haeger

Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon 1996 (Corison) - Dark, black-tinged crimson but still transparent; expressive nose of black fruit, tobacco and fir balsam with some floral highlights; elegant Barolo-like structure, almost pinot-esque; flavors of plum, black cherry and tar plus barrel-derived spice; long and very smooth that shows just a hint of grip on the finish. Atypical but beautifully complex and graceful.

reviewed 11/2011

Reviews Upon Release



Her wines are emphatic yet harmonious. This '96 announces itself immediately as a glamorous Napa Valley Cabernet, then it goes on to hint at something more profound. The front of the wine rises above the sweetness of caramelized oak to exotic spices, and darkens to chocolate and a deeply textured robe of red and black currant fruit. It progresses toward an earthy detail as the tannins come on and turn the wine in on itself, then the fruit flavors power through to lift the finish. That graceful one-two punch calls attention to the wine without overstepping the bounds of refinement. Like a bright child, it leaves you actively wondering, what will this become?

Wine & Spirits Magazine, December 1999

San Francisco Chronicle

The Chronicle's Top 100 Wines

Elegance and finesse, red fruits, well-integrated oak; drink now or cellar.

November 10, 1999

WINE ENTHUSIAST

Best of Year 2000 - The Top 100 Wines of the Year

94 Smells very fine and pure. Classy black currants and toasty oak rule. Flavors are opulent, rich and ripe, but very balanced. Gorgeous tannins; soft and accessible. It defines style and grace.

Wine Enthusiast, 2/1/2000



Rich and nicely ripened, but also pleasantly poised and neatly balanced, this carefully constructed wine brings together well-defined cassis-like fruit, lightly spiced oak and quiet notes of clay and mineral...

Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine, March 2000



****+ An excellent wine; velvety in texture, full in body, and long on the finish. It has medium richness, ripe fruit character (currant, cherry, blueberry), and toasty, oaky overtones. Fine quality.

Ronn Wiegand, Restaurant Wine, May 2000

Gourmet

Wine Journal: Napa Valley; The Glorious Fruit of Vineyards Replanted

A 1996 Corison Wines Cabernet Sauvignon from a vineyard between Rutherford and Saint Helena gave new definition to the word finesse.

Gerald Asher, November 1998, p.51