



1997 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

Tasting Notes Upon Release:

The 1997 vintage is a fine jewel in a string of great vintages from the 1990's. A warm, early spring was followed by a moderate, even summer allowing the fruit to slowly reach optimal maturity. Great structure and intensity are hallmarks of the vintage. ~ Cathy Corison, August 2000

Tasting Notes from 25 Vintage Retrospective Tasting:

Dark red to rim. Packed. Leather, tobacco, black olives, plum, cassis, violets. Wow. Juicy ripe red fruits in the flavors. Very well-integrated wood. Long finish. A winery favorite at the moment. Power and elegance. LOVE. Drink or hold. ~ Cathy Corison, October 2014

Retrospective Reviews:



94 Lavendar, incense, soy, broth, cumin, truffle, tobacco, compelling tertiary joy... it has benefitted from Cathy Corison's steady approach to picking, aimed at maintaining freshness. Jane Anson, *janeanson.com*, July 2026



92 Aromas of black fruits, menthol and mocha plus a hint of sweet butter. Elegant and smooth on entry, then tighter and more youthful in the middle palate, displaying retention of its dark fruit flavors. Here the acidity is successfully integrated and the wine's firm spine of ripe tannins gives the rising finish lovely lingering perfume... with terrific verve to its dark berry fruit. Stephen Tanzer, *Vinous*, March 2017

John Winthrop Haeger

...this sleek wine shows a blueish hue at first, then turns dark red and almost black at mid-palate. Notes of exotic woods, leather and cigar box. Finishes long with abundant sève... This vintage of this wine *wants* to be a food wine; some coppa di Parma and Prosciutto offset the abundance of dark fruit. September 2024



Dark ruby in the glass, this wine smells of bright cherry and citrus peel, dried flowers and dried herbs. In the mouth fantastically bright and juicy cherry, redcurrant and raspberry flavors mix with dried herbs and a forest floor earthiness that is quite compelling. There's also a slight saline, green herbal quality to the wine that accompanies the fantastic acidity. Great length and depth, and phenomenal balance achieved in a year when many wines were over the top. 13.2% alcohol. Score: **between 9.5 and 10.** Alder Yarrow, *vinography.com*, 6.27.2015

Napa Valley Then & Now

Unsurprisingly, Cathy Corison handled the heat and abundance of the 1997 vintage with aplomb, crafting a luxurious but long-lived wine. This wine shows only a touch of the caramel that defines many wines from this vintage, but it is matched with baked cherry fruit, roasted herbs, and cedar. Kelli White, 2015

John Winthrop Haeger

Saturated deep black-red; herbal and tobacco aromas; on the palate, simultaneously bright, silky, dark and serious with a sweet-savory impression; cranberry, dark cherry, bay laurel and tarragon; fruit dominates the attack, then the wine's herbal side prevails from mid-palate to finish; a bit of soft grip at the end, plus a kiss of mostly-integrated vanilla. Lovely. *reviewed 2010*

Reviews Upon Release:

Washington Post

With all due praise to Diamond Creek and the many other extraordinary wines at the tasting, my personal favorite was the ethereal Corsion 1997 Napa Valley. Winemaker Cathy Corison learned her craft making the muscular wines of Chappellet, but her own wines, lovingly crafted from vineyards located along the famed Rutherford Bench, draw their inspiration from the suavity of Margaux, the epitome of finesse. *Ben Giliberti, March 24, 1999*

San Francisco Chronicle - Top 100 wines of 2001

Dense black currant and spice nose, smoky oak backnotes; rich textured, smooth and powerful.

Gerald D. Boyd, November 4, 2001

Insiders' Wine Line

The 1997 Corison Cabernet Sauvignon has a bright, lush bouquet of black cherry, currants, blackberry, cigar box and vanilla. The flavors of cherries/berries, mint, chocolate, licorice and faint herb notes are very concentrated with good depth followed by a rich, fruity, spicy finish. *Volume 4, Number 2, 2001*