



2003 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

The delicious 2003 Corison Cabernet was released in September 2006. Picking in 2003 was a challenge, but luckily I had my last picking scheduled just as the long, wicked late September heat spike hit. The fruit got to the winery in excellent shape and without the sugars going through the roof. The otherwise even ripening season from *veraison* through the middle of September delivered complex flavors and inky color.

The resulting wine is packed with luscious Bing cherry and plum chutney fruit and rendered rich and complex with undertones of cocoa, nutmeg, white pepper and "Rutherford dust". Trademark floral high notes are already beginning to develop in the bottle. Lush with gentle, mouth-coating tannins, it gracefully walks the line between power and elegance, perfectly balanced for a long, distinguished life.

- Cathy Corison, August 2006

Retrospective Reviews



Very dark ruby in the glass with a hint of purple, this wine smells of black cherry and plum and licorice with a hint of green herbs. In the mouth, the wine is darker and more brooding, but with that characteristic brightness and lift to it thanks to excellent acidity. Black plum and the lingering tanginess of plum skin hang in the finish. Very fine tannins meld with the wine's loamy qualities. Score: around **9.5**.
Alder Yarrow, vinography.com, 6.27.2015



One of the best wines of the vintage, Corison's 2003 is a beautiful, lush, plummy wine with a compelling balance of fruit, floral, and earthy components. On the nose the wine offers crushed flowers, green olives, black currants, and cigar ash, and the palate is a rich mouthful of dark fruit with a dusty and slightly bitter tannin finish, redolent of powdered dark chocolate.
Kelli White, Napa Valley Then & Now, 2015

Reviews Upon Release



☆☆☆ Cathy Corison picked her fruit just as a September heat wave began, and the 13.6 percent alcohol shows ripeness without heat, typical of Corison's moderate approach. Buoyant fruit shines through, with red cherry highlights and balanced tannins.

Jon Bonné, San Francisco Chronicle, December 15, 2006



Stephen Tanzer's
International



90-92 Good full ruby. Sweet aromas of cassis, blackberry, licorice and violet. Juicy and sweet, with excellent clarity of flavor. Bears a strong resemblance to the 2002. A firmly built wine, with excellent acidity and inner-mouth energy. Finishes with noteworthy persistence and subtlety of flavor.

Stephen Tanzer's International Wine Cellar, Issue 120, May/June 2005



Medium-dark ruby with purplish tinges; cedary, cassis and black cherry fruit aroma with a note of vanilla; medium-full to full body; rich, flinty, cedary, black cherry fruit flavors; medium-full to full tannin; lingering aftertaste.

Highly recommended. *California Grapevine, December 2006-January 2007*



The Top 10 of 2007

Winemaker Cathy Corison knows that pure flavors come from picking the grapes early. Thus, in 03, she avoided the vicious heat spike that tarnished many Cabs. The result is a wine that revels in blackberry and cassis, with anise and a trademark floral note. It's smooth, but it has a streak of exuberant acidity.

Jordan Mackay, San Francisco 7X7, October 2007