

2011 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon



My 25th vintage, a quarter century! Somehow it seems fitting that the 2011 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon hails from one of the most challenging, but ultimately rewarding vintages of my winemaking career. Taking long and cool out to the limit, 2011 broke records for cool, closing with a big dose of rain. Luckily, seasons like this play handily into my style, favoring an elegant and refined expression of Cabernet Sauvignon. My well-drained, gravelly benchland sites promote early ripening.

The 2011 is certainly a candidate for one of my favorite vintages ever, displaying the entire range of Cabernet fruit flavors from black cherry and blueberry through plum, cassis and blackberry with cameos played by black raspberry and lingonberry, shored up by bracing natural acidity and firm and grippy, but velvety, tannins. A wonderful mineral streak and

forest-floor earthiness run up the middle and a precocious violet perfume enhances the aromas. Grace notes include cocoa, espresso and savory sage, thyme, allspice and coriander. It feels supple and textural in the mouth - luscious. This calls for lamb!

~ Cathy Corison, September 2014

Retrospective Reviews:



Cathy Corison's 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley) has lovely density despite the very cool and rainy growing season. Dried herbs, tobacco, leather, incense and gravel lend quite a bit of aromatic complexity. The 2011 is in great shape today, and will drink well for another decade. The blend of sites in St. Helena work so well here.

Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*, October 2021



94 Shy on the nose at first, with a direct, silky and finessed palate. There is a sappy, herbal quality that is indicative of the vintage, but with slightly more depth on the mid palate than other examples. Wakes up considerably after a few hours of air, putting on weight and intensity throughout.

Matthew Lucy, *Decanter*, 2 Feb, 2021

Reviews Upon Release:



The Corison hand is clearly evident here, and, as usual, this wine runs to refinement rather than to barely contained power. It is moderately full-bodied, wonderfully lithe and supple in feel with a quiet impression of continuing richness.

Proportion and balance are its salient strengths, and, if eschewing big muscles in favor of grace, it is nonetheless structured to steadily grow for a decade and last for another beyond that.

Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine, December 2014



Cathy Corison's 2011 Cabernet Sauvignon is very pretty. Sweet herbs, tobacco, menthol, licorice, dried flowers and cedar are all laced together nicely. The 2011 is aromatic and soft throughout, which makes it an excellent choice for drinking over the next handful of years. As always, the Cabernet Sauvignon is

made from bench land vineyards in St. Helena and Rutherford.

Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*, December 2014



a wine blog

Dark garnet in color, this wine smells of flowers, green herbs, roses, and lavender. Amazingly floral, bright, and juicy, the core of this wine delivers a thunderbolt of cherry, pure, bright, and crystalline across the palate. Very fine grained tannins stretch along the pure and long profile of the wine. Airy, elegant, and powerful. Among the

best tasting new releases I've had from Cathy in many years. Wowza. 13.7% alcohol. Score: between **9.5** and **10**.

Alder Yarrow, *vinography.com*, 6.27.2015

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

95 Cathy Corison's 2011 cabernet sauvignon is her twenty-fifth harvest at her own winery, and not surprisingly the queen of Napa Valley elegance has produced a stellar wine in the cooler year of 2011. The wine is a ripe, but suave 13.7 percent and wafts from the glass in a stellar constellation of red and black cherries, a fair bit of Rutherford Dust, tobacco leaf, beautiful soil tones, a hint of eucalyptus, fresh herb tones and a very refined base of new oak. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied and very pure, a superb core of fruit, absolutely seamless balance, great focus and complexity and a very long, youthful and ripely tannic finish of impeccable focus and grip... The 2011 is one of Cathy Corison's finest young vintages that I have had the pleasure to taste, which is saying something, considering this remarkable woman's superb track record for classic Napa cabernets!

John Gilman, *View from the Cellar*, Issue #52, Jul/Aug 2014



92 Medium-dark ruby; attractive, somewhat tight, deep, complex, toasty, cassis and dark berry fruit aroma with herbal notes and a hint of vanilla; full body; rich, nicely balanced and structured, cassis and dark berry fruit flavors with a velvety mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Corison's wines traditionally age well and this current release deserves a good five more years. **Very highly recommended.**

Nick Ponomareff, California Grapevine, Vol. 40, September 2014

Dan Berger's Vintage Experiences
The Weekly Wine Commentary

Exceptional This wine... displays classic Napa aromas of dried and fresh cherries, niçoise olives, tea, and dried herbs. Perfect balance leads to a generous mid-palate and huge potential; in a decade, you may find traces of aged Latakia tobacco! Those who recall the best Cabs of the 1970s will find

this an absolute delight, and it gets better for hours with air, indicating a long life. This is what great Napa Cab is all about!

Dan Berger's Vintage Experiences, Volume XVIII, Issue 31, September 18, 2014

International
WINE REPORT

95 When this wine was still in barrel, Cathy Corison told me she felt her 2011 was one the best wines she has ever made, and after tasting the wine in bottle, it would be hard to argue with that statement. This is an absolutely pure example of Napa Valley Cabernet, made the

way it was meant to be, classy and elegant with amazing balance and structure. The seductive aromas and flavors of ripe cassis, exotic spices, dried savory herbs, minerals and fresh floral come together beautifully and resonate all the way through the gorgeous finish. This is a brilliant effort from Cathy Corison that is already showing wonderful right now and will certainly continue to evolve.

Joe D'Angelo, International Wine Report, November 2014

wineviewonline.com

Another example of a classy, non-hillside 2011 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is the Corison Napa Valley, owner Cathy Corison's 25th vintage... She replicated her signature style of Cab, with black cherry and plum fruit enhanced by notes of forest floor, cedar, sage and coffee. Corison's Cabs have never crossed the over-ripeness line, so her 2011 is in keeping with her stylistic choice of lower alcohol.

Linda Murphy, wineviewonline.com, November 4, 2014

wineviewonline.com

96 What (Cathy Corison) is focused on is quality in the glass, and this wine is yet another example of her deft hand with Napa Cabernet Sauvignon. Her 25th anniversary vintage, this wine is classic Corison -blackberry, currants, wild flowers, dust, mild dried herbs and delicate brown spice notes delivered over structured acidity and supple tannins that bode well for a long life ahead. That said, it's great to drink now with a good decant. Congratulations to Cathy on 25 years, and thanks for sharing your talents with us!

Rich Cook, wineviewonline.com, Nov 25, 2014



Her 2011 Napa Valley is equally enchanting with dark cherries, plums and spice, as smooth as fine-spun silk yet powerful and mouth-filling.

Eunice Fried, Global Traveler, May 2, 2015

Newark Star Ledger - Corison Does it Her Way

The 2011 Corison Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley has the earlier vintage's (2005's) DNA, but its own personality. Here, the black fruit is more vibrant because it is younger, and the mineral, stony character stands behind it, giving support for what will be a long life.

John Foy, Newark Star Ledger, February 26, 2015