

2019 Corison *Kronos Vineyard* Cabernet Sauvignon



2019 was a nearly perfect vintage, enjoying such a long, cool ripening season that we picked two weeks later than usual, the perfect setup for a great vintage. Moderate days allowed long hang-time, resulting in complex, intense flavors, and cold nights promoted inky color and terrific natural acidity.

This is a bright vintage for Kronos with pert blackberry and cassis fruit complexed by an emerging violet perfume. Notes of baking spices, faint peppermint and dusty, flinty minerality join in. The whole package is wrapped in a velvety tannic grip, and signature snappy acidity lifts all.

- Cathy Corison, March 2023

Reviews from the 2024 Kronos Retrospective Tasting:

Decanter 97 A complex Kronos, with robust tannins framing a dark berry fruit character laced with wild herbs, pressed wildflowers, and dark currants. Medium- to full-bodied, with building tannins that lead to a sagebrush- and bay laurel-scented finish. This is a shy wine, showing less body than the 2018, but perhaps even greater intensity in its acid backbone, promising a long and evolving future. (Among a 25-vintage vertical tasted at The Progress in San Francisco in October 2024.) *Jonathan Cristaldi, Decanter Magazine, 27 Oct 2024*

vinography The Majesty of Time: 25 Years of Kronos Cabernet
Very dark garnet in the glass, this wine smells of sweet blueberries and black cherry fruit with a hint of vanilla. In the mouth, black cherry and blueberry flavors mix with blackcurrant and bright juicy acidity. Muscular tannins coat the mouth as hints of citrus peel linger in the finish with herbs and floral notes. Tannins are still a bit tight. Fantastic acidity. 13.7% alcohol. 590 cases made.
Score: around 9.5. *Alder Yarrow, Vinography.com, 12/3/2024*

Reviews upon release:

Antonio Galloni presents vinous 98 The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon Kronos Vineyard is very clearly one of the wines of the vintage. One of the things I love about the 2019 is the way it conveys power and density, but without weight. In that sense, it is perhaps atypical for Napa Valley Cabernets in this vintage. Even so, I find the sense of beauty here absolutely beguiling. The 2019 Kronos is an absolutely stunning wine. I could describe the aromas and flavors, but that seems pretty banal for a wine that is so clearly towering in its splendor. Don't miss it!
Antonio Galloni, Vinous, October 2021



TOP 100 WINES OF THE USA 2021

97 Aromas of blueberries, cherries, stones, cedar, sage, oregano and cloves. It's medium- to full-bodied with fine tannins and fresh acidity. Seamless and silky with fragrant, fruity character. Polished and pure. Fantastic length and freshness. Hints of stones at the end. Delicious already, but better from 2023.
jamesuckling.com, February 3, 2022



96 Vivid and expressive, with a gorgeous display of mulberry, plum and boysenberry fruit aromas and flavors racing through, carried by well-embedded acidity and a sleek iron spine. The fruit and minerality curl around each other like a helix through the finish, which is sneaky long. More, please. Drink now through 2040. *James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, April 19, 2023*



97 Plush yet precise, structured yet elegant, it's a wine of depth, complexity, and beauty. It slow dances onto the palate with languorous deliciousness, then whirlwinds its way to a long supple finish. It's one of the best Cabernets in all of Napa, and one of my favorites year after year.

Karen MacNeil, Winespeed.com, April 21, 2023



18 Mid purplish crimson. Rather an ethereally ripe nose with wonderful refreshment on the end and so much fruit that it almost obliterates the not inconsiderable tannin structure. Cedar/cigar-box notes. Real energy and life to this wine! It's very tempting to drink this straight away because it has so much charm but you know it would make sense to wait awhile. Super-clean and vibrant. A model for Napa? Great mineral note on the end. So long and rewarding. One sip lasts a minute...

Jancis Robinson, JancisRobinson.com, 9 Nov 2022

vinography

Dark garnet in color, this wine smells of blackcurrant, black cherry, and dried flowers. In the mouth, black cherry, cola, and cassis flavors are wrapped in wispy tannins and stony with excellent acidity. With a gorgeous texture and fantastically well-balanced, this wine is showing just a touch of its oak barrels at the moment, and needs a couple of years for the fruit to eclipse the wood. In 5 to 10 years, this wine will be stunning, but it's pretty damn delicious right now. Score: around **9.5**.

Alder Yarrow, Vinography.com, 12/25/22



97 The single-varietal 2019 Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is deep garnet-purple colored. It leaps from the glass with vibrant notes of crushed blackcurrants and blackberries, followed by suggestions of rose oil, cardamom, beef dripping, and crushed rocks. The medium-bodied palate is spritely and energetic, delivering crunchy black fruit layers and a firm, grainy texture, finishing *long* and refreshing.

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent, 2-16-23



95 From a maker and vineyard site widely recognized for producing mannerly, refined, layered wines that seem always to sit near the top of our ratings comes yet another outstanding effort. This wine may start out a bit quietly but it soon opens in the glass to layered, rich, youthfully tight yet fully enticing fruit keyed on pert curranty and black cherry notes supported by the expected varietal touches of oak, dark soils and whispers of chocolate. On the palate, it is both keenly focused and deep...

Connoisseurs' Guide to California Wine, December 2022

WINE ENTHUSIAST

97 Cellar Selection - This snugly wrapped, agile, medium-bodied wine from old vines keeps a core of raspberries, violets and black currants under a veil of silky tannins. The wine's excellent acid balance, tension and sense of depth will unleash more complexity as the tannins resolve over time.

Jim Gordon, Wine Enthusiast, April 2023

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

96 Cathy Corison's forty-five year-old vines in her Kronos Vineyard have to now be some of the oldest, if not the oldest, cabernet sauvignon vines still remaining in Napa Valley. As these old vines were originally planted on phylloxera-resistant rootstock, there was no need to replant them when the louse swept through all of the top vineyards in Napa. The 2019 Kronos cabernet comes in at 13.7 percent alcohol this year and delivers a superb, elegant bouquet of sweet cassis, black cherries, Rutherford Dust, cigar wrapper, allspice, a deft framing of cedary oak and a lovely base of soil tones. On the palate the wine is deep, full-bodied, young and potentially very elegant in profile, with a superb core of fruit, great soil signature and grip, ripe, seamless tannins and a long, focused and impeccably balanced finish. This is a great, great bottle of cabernet in the making.

John Gilman, View from the Cellar, Issue #102, Nov-Dec 2022



97 The gorgeous 2019 Corison 'Kronos Vineyard' Cabernet Sauvignon is a stunning effort from this fantastic vintage in the Napa Valley. Cathy purchased this old vineyard surrounding the winery which was first planted in 1971 on St. George rootstock. On the nose this displays beautiful red and dark florals that are followed by pencil lead, anise and suggestions of dark currant jelly. The palate is intense and impeccably balanced, with a seamless texture and marvelous length. The bright core of underlying acidity makes this nearly impossible to put down right now. Enjoy this beauty now and over the next twenty years to come.

owenbargreen.com, April 27, 2023



94 The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon Kronos Vineyard is rather minty and herbal, but it marries those traits with vibrant, almost floral cassis notes. Restrained by comparison to most other Napa Valley Cabernets, it's medium-bodied, with a streamlined shape on the palate that belies its intensity. Silky, long and nearly weightless, it lingers easily on the finish.

Joe Czerwinski, Wine Advocate, 15 Sept 2022

JEB DUNNUCK 94 The 2019 Cabernet Sauvignon Kronos Vineyard is all varietal and spent 20 months in 50% new French oak. It's a deeper, richer wine that has plenty of red and black fruits as well as candied violets, exotic spice, and some minty herbs. Nicely textured, medium-bodied, concentrated, yet tight and compact, this classic, old school Napa Cabernet is approachable today yet won't hit maturity for another 4-5 years and should have over two decades of longevity. *jebdunnuck.com, 3/10/22*



This is a wine with its own personality, standing apart even from Cathy Corison's other cabernet sauvignons. The 50-year-old vines ripen loose clusters of clone 2 cabernet, and Corison does not try to tame it with heady ripeness or overt oak. This 2019 is distinctly red-fruited—red currant, raspberry and hints of red licorice providing a lean richness. The fruit is sweet... the overall impression clean. Cellar it, and it should develop in ten years' time into a St. Helena beauty. If less patient, give it at least a year. *J.G., Wine & Spirits Magazine, 10/2022*



98 The 2019 Kronos Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is an absolutely sensational release from Cathy Corison that is all about precision winemaking. This gorgeous Cabernet offers a striking aromatic profile of fresh red and dark currants, which are joined by graphite, fresh flowers, crushed gravel and hints of herbs all coming together beautifully. On the palate this possesses a gorgeous medium to full body that is impeccably balanced. It goes on to display remarkable structure with polished tannins that hold everything in place beautifully all the way through the long, focused finish. The 2019 Kronos shows plenty of power along with a wonderful sense of restraint and it should ultimately be cellared for at least a few more years to allow it a chance display its full potential. Nonetheless, this is a truly fascinating bottle of Cabernet that is poised for a brilliant future ahead.

Joe D'Angelo, International Wine Report, November 2022



96 Seductively savory on the nose, this Cabernet Sauvignon shows notes of cedar, brine, and sage intermingled with bright red cherry, cassis, and clove. Zippy acidity and silky, fine-grained tannins come together to form a wine that is rich and weightless all at once. Corison's 2019 Kronos Vineyard Cabernet is a true benchmark among St. Helena wines.

John McDermott, winereviewonline.com, Sep 27, 2023