

2020 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon



The result of a nearly perfect, long and cool ripening season (and oblivious to the Covid chaos swirling around it), the 2020 was picked and in the barn fully two and a half weeks before the Glass Fire broke out. Industrial-grade air filters kept smoke out of the winery as the wines went down to barrels. We are so grateful, and relieved, to present the lovely 2020.

This wine is wildly complex with tart cherry, blueberry, red and black currants, raspberry, plum and boysenberry fruit, fleshed out with notes of baking spices and peppermint. The tannins are characteristically polite yet grippy. Mineral notes add lift and the evolving violet perfume is so pretty. ~ Cathy Corison

Decanter 96 Medium to full-bodied, beautiful and restrained, with savoury aromatics of fennel, black liquorice, cedar, and black currants. Soft, satiny blackberry fruits are lifted by fine-grained yet supple tannins while a purity of fruit guides the palate to a long, tobacco-tinged finish marked by a mineral-freshness that beckons sip after sip...
Jonathan Cristaldi, Decanter Magazine, 5 Apr 2023

WINE ENTHUSIAST 95 Classic balance and a little restraint characterize this firmly structured, deeply flavored wine that brings black cherries, cranberries and black pepper to the front, backed by slightly tangy acidity and texturizing tannins that will help it mature nicely.
Jim Gordon, Wine Enthusiast Magazine, October 2023

vinography Dark garnet in the glass, this wine smells of black cherry and cassis. In the mouth, gorgeous cherry, dried flowers, and herb flavors have an ethereal quality as bright acidity makes for a mouthwatering package. The tannins are wispy ghosts that hang in the corners of the mouth. Refined... The idea of a wine this gorgeous being made in a year when a large percentage of producers in Napa made no wine at all thanks to the fires positively boggles the mind. Score: around 9.5.
Alder Yarrow, Vinography.com, 8/26/23

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR 95 The classic Corison bouquet wafts from the glass in that Rutherford Bench classic signature of black cherries, cassis, dark soil tones, Rutherford Dust spice tones, cigar ash and a lovely framing of nutty new oak. On the palate the wine is bright, elegant and full-bodied, with lovely depth at the core, fine-grained, buried tannins, great focus and grip and a long, complex and impeccably balanced finish.
John Gilman, View from the Cellar, #104, March-April 2023

THE New Wine Review 98 This is a brooding, beautifully put together wine, generous in dark plum, nutmeg, cedar, cardamom and cocoa powder while seamless in texture. Soft, supple tannins integrate well into the fruit and spice, with a backbone of power and structure that show ample ability to age and prosper in additional complexity and nuance.
Virginie Boone, The New Wine Review, May 2023

Robb Report The 11 Best Cabernet Sauvignons to Drink Right Now, From Napa Valley to Australia
Best Overall Cabernet Sauvignon: (Cathy Corison) is one of our favorite producers and makes consistent, delectable wines year after year, and her wines are very well reviewed by other colleagues whom we respect. Her 2020 Cab has aromas of black plum, fennel frond, cigar box, and cassis. Elegant and fruit forward on the palate it offers flavors of black cherry, dried Mediterranean herbs, and crushed violet petals all wrapped in a smooth tannic sheath.
Mike DeSimone & Jeff Jenssen, Robb Report, March 28, 2024

The 50 Greatest Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignons of the 21st Century (So Far)

#26 Veteran winemaker Cathy Corison has always strived to make powerful yet elegant Cabernet Sauvignons that speak of place and terroir and her 2020 certainly hits these marks. This delightful Cab has aromas and flavors of fennel frond, cigar box, cassis, cranberry, and a touch of sarsaparilla root in the finish.

Mike DeSimone & Jeff Jenssen, Robb Report, Dec. 12, 2024



94 This supple and gracious cabernet reflects none of the challenges of the 2020 season—from the outbreak of a pandemic in the spring to the devastating Glass Fire in the fall. Cathy Corison's vines delivered healthy fruit several weeks before the fire hit the valley, and her 2020 offers Napa Valley satisfaction in a ripe, voluptuous red. The tannins have a plum-skin essence that lasts, along with heady scents of *fraises de bois*.
Joshua Greene, Wine & Spirits Magazine, 10/23



95 The nose is crumbled herb, cola, camphor, tobacco, and black cherry. The palate entry is sleek red fruit with a full-bodied core of polished black stone fruits leading to a velvet-like finish of dried vine berries and plum.

Doug Wilder, Purely Domestic Wine Report, Issue 10.1, August 1, 2023



93 Distinctive, with a vivid display of mulberry, pomegranate and plum fruit aromas and flavors that glide through easily, carried by a silky but persistent structure. Reveals nice floral nuances through the finish, with a late twinge of iron, too.

James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, August 2023



94 Deep garnet-purple in color, the 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon springs from the glass with vibrant notes of black raspberry, redcurrant jelly, and black cherry plus hints of dried herbs, pencil lead, and black olives. The medium-bodied palate is bright, lively, and refreshing, with soft tannins and a fragrant lift to the finish. This is nicely done!

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent, November 8, 2023



94 The 2020 Corison 'Napa Valley' Cabernet Sauvignon is an astonishingly good wine from this Uber-challenging vintage in the Napa Valley. It shows beautiful black florals on the nose with creme de cassis and coffee ground notes. The palate is silky smooth and very refined tannins that frame a beautiful core of bright black fruits.

owenbargreen.com, April 27, 2023



******+** The 2020 Corison Cabernet Sauvignon is very fine and distinctive in flavor (black currant, cassis, cherry, black tea, rose petal, oak); and long, mildly tannic, and persistent on the finish. It has terrific character, reminiscent (in terms of freshness, quality, and intensity) of the

best 2021s, which are now entering the market. Impressive!

Ronn Wiegand, Restaurant Wine, March 2024



93 The 2020 Napa Valley Cabernet from Corison delivers aromatics of red and dark currants, which are joined by chocolate, savory herbs, gravel, pipe tobacco and spring flowers that all come together beautifully. On the palate this shows a stunning display of pure Cabernet fruit, along with a beautiful ripe core that expands seamlessly through the sleek, polished finish. Despite the challenges of the vintage this is a total success from Corison.

Joe D'Angelo, International Wine Report, April 2023



92 Quite fruit-expressive and floral, with spiced dark cherries, baked plums, hibiscus and violet extract on the nose. Rich and fruity, with tart cherries, cassis and dried herbs on the palate. Full-bodied and juicy, with silky tannins that smooth it out. Drink or hold.

jamesuckling.com, September 13, 2022



90 The 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley) is a heady, potent wine that shows the heat of the year in its forward, opulent personality. Super-ripe black cherry, plum, chocolate, herbs, earthiness, and licorice are all amplified in this decidedly exuberant, potent wine.

Antonio Galloni, Vinous – explore all things wine, October 2022



91 Corison fans should enjoy the 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon. Gentle herbal streaks run through the wine's classic black cherries and cassis fruit. Medium-bodied, sleek and streamlined, it shows vibrant energy and ample length, framed by gentle, silky tannins.

Joe Czerwinski, Wine Advocate, December 29, 2023

JEB DUNNUCK

The base 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon is pretty, with a medium-bodied, elegant style as well as lots of sappy herbs, flowers, and currant-driven aromatics, fine tannins, and nicely integrated acidity. Drink this balanced, satisfying, old school Cabernet over the coming 10-12 years or so.

Jeb Dunnuck, JebDunnuck.com, 12/26/23

wine review online.com

93 Vanilla and baking spice waft from the glass, giving way to a wonderful bouquet of red and black fruits and finishing with a note of blueberry cobbler. Though sumptuous on the nose, lively acidity and chalky, structured tannins keep things expertly balanced. It is a wonderfully approachable Cabernet in its youth that will no doubt continue to improve.

John McDermott, Wine Review Online, Sep. 27, 2023

The Nittany Epicurean

The wine showed a dark ruby color. Black cherry, raspberry preserves, cassis, eucalyptus, dark chocolate, mossy earth and oak all arrived on the alluring nose. Black cherry, raspberry preserves, eucalyptus and vanilla were the notes of luxury that crafted a lush palate supported by notes of cassis and oak. The wine was full-bodied and exhibited great length along with velvety tannins. It would pair incredibly well with a seared dry-aged New York strip steak.

Michael Chelus, The Nittany Epicurean, June 26, 2024