

2020 Corison Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon



The result of a nearly perfect season (and oblivious to the pandemic), the 2020 was picked and in the barn nearly three weeks before the Glass Fire broke out. Filters kept the air fresh in the winery as the wines went down to barrels. We are so grateful to present this lovely wine.

Signature intense raspberry fruit and grace notes of tart cherry, plum and currants are singing here. The cool ripening season promoted inky color and snappy balance. A haunting perfume of rose petals and violets is striking in the aromas, while a pulse of slate minerality completes the picture.

~ Cathy Corison, March 2024

Decanter

96 Cathy Corison's newest single-vineyard designate from Sunbasket Vineyard in St. Helena AVA, aged 20 months in 50% new French oak, shows the prowess of excellent winemaking. This tightly knit Cabernet is the iron fist in the velvet glove with lofty red-toned mineral aromatics atop cherry and black currant notes. At the same time, the palate is fresh and alive, sporting a linear quality that draws a straight line from the red- and black-toned fruit profile to the cedar-rich elegant, fine-grained tannins to the dried wild herb finish. This is a tightly-knit, masterful creation from the 2020 vintage and should be enjoyed now and often over the next 5-7 years, possibly longer.

Jonathan Cristaldi, Decanter Magazine, 5 Apr 2023



93+ Suave and plush, the Sunbasket has more than enough fruit to balance the tannins in this vintage. Dark red cherry, red plum, coffee, herbs and dried rose petals all meld together effortlessly. The 2020 is exuberant and quite flashy, with all the elements very nicely balanced. This is a gorgeous wine, with a ton of potential. The purity of the fruit here is just striking.

Antonio Galloni, Vinous, October 2022

THE New Wine Review

98 With grip and intensity, this wine opens in strong notions of savory sage, spice and stone-like granite. The fruit is high-toned and tart, a mix of cherry and currant that emphasize the wine's underlying acidity, while texture and length build on the midpalate, adding weight and breadth. This wine commands attention right out the gate, but should be cellared to truly capture its essence.

Virginie Boone, The New Wine Review, May 2023

Wine Spectator

94 Shows lovely focus and purity, with a stream of hibiscus and iris notes leading the way for slightly taut red currant, damson plum and red cherry coulis flavors. Reveals nice tension that ripples through the finish, thanks to a buried iron note. The seamless, even-keeled finish belies the vintage, too.

James Molesworth, Wine Spectator, August 2023

WINE ENTHUSIAST

Cellar Selection - 97 High notes of strawberries and raspberries in the aroma lead to pure red and black cherry flavors nicely accented by oak toast and framed in moderate tannins. Great balance and an elegant texture signal a potential long life ahead.

Jim Gordon, Wine Enthusiast Magazine, October 2023



94 The 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon Sunbasket Vineyard is classic Corison in style, offering up restrained black cherries and hints of pencil shavings with gentle herbal nuances. The Sunbasket is still just medium-bodied, but it seems a bit fuller than the regular bottling, showing more richness and tannins, at least, with a long, mouthwatering yet velvety finish.

Joe Czerwinski, Wine Advocate, December 29, 2023



95 The single-varietal 2020 Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is deep garnet-purple in color. Notes of blackcurrant jelly, Morello cherries, and mulberries give way to nuances of lilacs, underbrush, and cracked black pepper. The medium-bodied palate is coated with vivacious black fruit flavors with herbal and savory accents and nice grainy tannins, finishing with bags of brightness and energy.

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

Jancis Robinson

17.5+ Shaded crimson. Intense, captivating nose – like magic sweet ink! Beautiful poise so that you could enjoy this almost fleshy wine already but the charge of ripe tannins will see it through for many a year. Lovely wine!

JancisRobinson.com, 26 April, 2023

vinography

Dark garnet in the glass, this wine smells of cocoa powder and black cherry. In the mouth, bright black cherry and plum flavors have a touch of cola and cocoa powder as bright acidity makes for a mouthwatering experience. Faint, ethereal tannins, with an overall fantastic balance and elegance, and light oak notes in the finish. 13.9% alcohol. Score: around **9.5**.
Alder Yarrow, Vinography.com, 8/26/23

Wine & Spirits
MAGAZINE

93 From an estate parcel just north of Corison's winery, this cabernet sauvignon feels luxurious in its concentrated plum flavors, with freshness touching on crab apple and cranberry acidity. The dark fruit is exuberant...

Joshua Greene, Wine & Spirits Magazine, 10/23

JAMES SUCKLING.COM

93 A deep nose with some gravel to the black cherries, cassis, cocoa beans, cedar and Spanish chocolate. Full-bodied and flavorful, with dense but nicely polished tannins. Tart black cherries in the middle, followed by a long, bright finish with a nice saline tang. Try from 2024.

JamesSuckling.com, September 13, 2022

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

93 The bouquet is deep and nascently complex, offering up a sappy and ripe blend of black raspberries, cassis, cigar wrapper, a nice touch of soil and smoky-new oak. On the palate the wine is full-bodied, deep at the core and sappy, with good focus and grip, ripe tannins and a long, youthful and well-balanced finish.

John Gilman, Issue #104, View from the Cellar, March-April 2023

JEB DUNNUCK

92+ The 2020 Cabernet Sauvignon Sunbasket Vineyard is rock solid, with impressive cassis and black raspberry fruits as well as some floral, graphite, and spicy nuances. It's medium-bodied, fresh, focused, has fine tannins, and a beautiful sense of elegance. All Cabernet Sauvignon aged 20 months in 50% new French oak, it's going to evolve for 15+ years, and should be even better with short-term cellaring.

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

International
WINE REPORT

95 The 2020 Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon from Corison is one of the most successful wines to come out of this vintage. It begins with aromas of red currants and dark cherries laced with spices, fresh cut florals, licorice, tobacco, wet gravel and hints of fresh herbs which all come together beautifully. The palate is medium-bodied and beautifully balanced with a lovely combination of fresh fruit and acidity. It goes on to display excellent focus with incredible elegance which persists through the graceful finish. While this is a pleasure to drink today, it should be even more impressive with another year or two of bottle age. The Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet is a truly amazing wine from Cathy Corison in 2020.

Joe D'Angelo, International Wine Report, April 2023



Top 100 of 2023

96 The 2020 'Sunbasket Vineyard' Cabernet Sauvignon is another lively and very focused effort from this downright tough vintage in the Napa Valley. Once on the nose this takes on layers of Turkish coffee alongside loamy soils, creme de cassis and Kalamata olive notes. The palate is soft and refined with a smooth texture and plenty of concentration. The bright underlying finesse combines with good weight and is classic Corison. Drink this beauty now and over the next five plus years.

owenbargreen.com, May 22, 2023

purely domestic wine report

94 The nose is sharply-defined menthol and sticky lavender backed by notes of thyme. The palate entry is tightly-focused with a core of silky, quenching cranberry finishing with well-integrated polished tannins.

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



***** Nearly opulent in style, the 2020 Sunbasket is a supple, moderately rich Cabernet Sauvignon, with elegant, complex aroma and flavor (black currant, rose petal, cassis, black pepper, herbs, toasted oak), fine balance, and somewhat tannic finish. Has a very long aftertaste. Wonderful 2020 Napa Valley Cabernet...

Ronn Wiegand, Restaurant Wine, March 2024