



1998 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon

Tasting Notes Upon Release

1998 was a growing season that required repeated crop removal in the vineyard to achieve even ripening, rewarding the patient Winegrower with a long, cool season that finished on the upswing with a lovely Indian summer. Dark, inky color and concentrated flavors resulted from the shy yields. Juicy with cherry, berry and plum fruit, the flavors are spicy with cinnamon and cloves, cedar and hints of vanilla. Gravelly, earthy notes add complexity. Hints of dried rose petal and violet perfume are beginning to develop in the aromas. Beautifully structured with a soft and silky texture, the 1998 Corison epitomizes the best of Napa Valley benchmark Cabernet Sauvignon.

- Cathy Corison, August 2001

Tasting Notes from our 25 Vintage Retrospective Tasting

Medium red brick. Very pretty, perfumed, high-toned aromas including bay laurel and tarragon. Cola notes and mineral thread. Intense, lovely, long. Wow. A current favorite at the winery. Drink or hold.

- Cathy Corison, October 2014

Retrospective Reviews:

THE New Wine Review

An incredibly seductive mouthfeel, which, while hardly unique for Corison's wines, is especially pronounced here. Loads of sweet currant on the nose, plus black pepper and herbs and spice - a balanced meal, really. Ripe blueberries on the ample (but by no means overgenerous) mid-palate, topped with hints of spice once typical for the region: bay leaf, thyme. Incredibly purity and incredible finesse. The kind of wine that rewards contemplation and also brings joy.

Jon Fine, *The New Wine Review*, March 4, 2025

Decanter

93 Opening in the glass with notes of red and black fruit, autumn leaves, cocoa powder and rich, loamy soil, this is a sappy wine with lovely intensity and focus. An achievement to be proud of.

William Kelley, *Decanter Magazine*, 30 Sep 2015

vinography a wine blog

Dark ruby in the glass, this wine smells of dried cherries and forest floor. In the mouth, cocoa powder, faint, powdery tannins and a supple silky texture carry flavors of cherry, cedar, and rose petals across the palate. Wonderfully earthy, with a deep forest floor quality that lingers through the finish along with a hint of saltiness. Thrumming with vibrant acidity and floral complexity. Gorgeous. Score: between 9.5 and 10.

Alder Yarrow, *vinography.com*, 6.27.2015

NAPA VALLEY THEN & NOW

A classically structured, serious wine, with beautiful mature aromas of cigar ash, graphite, library book, slate, and dried sage. Very complex and complete, though still a baby.

Kelli White, *Napa Valley Then & Now*, 2015

Reviews Upon Release:

The New York Times On The Web, Wine Picks

4.5 stars Though her signature style - ripe fruit flavors paired with a velvety texture - is worthy of the cellar, her wines invite an immediate uncorking. *The Wine* - 1998 Corison, Cabernet Sauvignon... Well-balanced oak, tannins and acid create a strong structure fleshed out with juicy, yet powerful cassis fruit, touches of tobacco and hints of chocolate. Drink now or age...
Leslie Sbrocco, The New York Times, December 23, 2001

Wine Spectator online

Medium-weight, with herb, cedar and earthy cherry and plum flavors that are elegant and well-proportioned. Turns complex on the finish.
James Laube, Wine Spectator Online, Oct. 2001

Daily Wine

The 1998 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is a stunningly good wine from a vintage that was universally disregarded by most wine critics and most wine geeks. It was called "Light", "Soft" "Underdeveloped." The Corison 1998 goes to show that even if the critics are right (and I'm not sure they are when it comes to 1998) all wines do not fall into their categorization.

The 1998 Corison Cab is a perfectly balanced wine. The balanced still shows in spades with velvety tannins mixing with textural acidity that gives the wine the kind of structure a good Porterhouse steak or lamb shank really demands. The nose is where the wine's complexity really is on display. Deep violet, anise, wild blackberry and sweet herbs (sage?). The flavors mimic the nose. It is a medium dense wine that is elegant and long. Its age isn't even a factor yet. The edge carries only the tiniest hint of brown. And, there is not a single note of hotness in this wine. The alcohol is 13.6%. Yes, 13.6%.

This kind of Cabernet is rare in Napa Valley today. It's the type that is made by a winemaker cum stylist with the kind of self assurance you see in artists who break the mold and step beyond contemporary standards.

Tom Wark, August 2005