

2018 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon



2018 is the darkest, inkiest vintage in my memory, the result of an extremely long, cool ripening season with cold nights. Happily, natural acidity persists during ripening under these conditions and wildly complex flavors and aromas result. Because the weather was perfect at flowering, we had a bumper crop of deliciousness, making everyone happy.

Violet and dried rose perfume jumps out of the glass along with tart cherry, blueberry, plum and cassis fruit. Flavors follow with cocoa and refreshing minerality joining the party, and a tantalizing white pepper note for interest. Signature velvety tannins add texture and a gentle grip to complete the picture.

~ Cathy Corison



93 The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley) is fabulous. Bright, floral overtones add liveliness and lift to a core of fruit ranging from red to purplish. Vibrant and seriously expressive, the 2018 dazzles with its class and nuance. The Napa Valley Cabernet is positively alluring, even at this early stage – not to mention flat-out delicious.

Antonio Galloni, January 2020

Decanter

94 Perennially a yardstick of balance and grace, Cathy Corison's St. Helena Cabernet admirably sums up the best that the 2018 vintage has to offer: power, clarity and poise. Delicate and deft aromas of red plums and damp soil. The palate is silky and fine, with a zesty, high-toned quality through the finish.

Matthew Luczy, 13 October, 2020

vinography

9.5 Dark purple in the glass, this wine smells of dried herbs, black cherry, blackcurrants, and lavender. In the mouth, intense blackcurrant and dried herb notes are juicy with fantastic acidity and savory with hints of dried flowers. A hint of salinity creeps into the finish along with a dusty earth note. Powdery tannins flex their muscles on the edges of the palate. While this is tasty right now, I'd leave it alone for 5 years to start getting the true magic here.

Alder Yarrow, vinography.com, August 25, 2021

JamesSuckling.com

94 Aromas of currants, walnuts, stones and berries follow through to a full body with firm, layered tannins and a pretty finish. Lovely polish to this. Needs a year or two to come completely together, but already delicious. Try after 2021.

16 December, 2020

JEB DUNNUCK

I always love the wines from Cathy Corison, and 2018 is a vintage that certainly plays to her strengths with its classic, elegant style. Looking at her 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon, this medium ruby/purple-colored effort offers an old school bouquet of red and black currants, menthol, spring flowers, and violets to go with a medium-bodied, elegant style on the palate... It offers medium-bodied richness, terrific overall balance, seamless tannins, and a great finish. Drink this classic, balanced, satisfying Cabernet from Corison over the coming 15 years or so.

jebdunnuck.com, 1/27/21



...long on style, the latest from Corison runs a predictable course that should be familiar to all fans of the winery. It aims successfully for finesse and steers well away from the lavishly oaked, high-ripeness, blockbuster model favored by a good many

Cabernet makers... this is a deliberate, very carefully measured wine that hits the mark smartly as far as keen varietal identity goes, and it capably proves that richness and grace are not mutually exclusive.

August 2021

purely domestic wine report

97 The nose is supple blackberry, licorice, black currant and cedar. The palate entry is polished and lean black plum with beautifully balanced core of spice, ripe blueberry showing pristine delicacy. The finish develops a mouth-coating dusty black fruit and faint essence of minty bay laurel. Drink 2021 - 2040. *Doug Wilder, Volume 9.1*



95 The 2018 Corison 'Napa Valley' Cabernet Sauvignon is a beautiful offering that shows violets and red currant aromatics alongside sage, blackberry compote and shades of pipe tobacco. The sense of balance is gorgeous here as red and dark fruits parade with graphite, leather and freshly tilled soils. Seamless and highly refined, this shows beautiful restraint and bright acidity that should carry this wine over two decades. Drink 2021-2040. *owenbargreen.com, September 14, 2021*



93 Medium- dark ruby color; very attractive, deep, ripe, complex, dark cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with earthy and herbal notes, and hints of baking spices; full body; rich, ripe, nicely balanced, somewhat elegant, red and black fruit flavors with bright acidity, hints of dried herbs, and undertones of well proportioned toasty oak; full tannin; lingering aftertaste.

Very highly recommended.

Nick Ponomareff, June 2021

Bigger Than Your Head

The deep black-purple hue offers a glowing magenta rim; the highly perfumed bouquet delivers seamless notes of iodine, iron and flint, mint, cedar, cassis, lavender and licorice and, not least, smoke, loam and profound graphite minerality; that mineral character persists on the palate, where the wine is lively and energetic, lithe and supple, deep-set in dusty, velvety tannins that exhibit the barest presence of oak; a few moments in the glass unfurl hints of espresso bean and bittersweet chocolate, raspberries and plums, tapenade and underbrush; incredibly complex in detail and dimension yet singular of purpose and magisterial elegance. Now through 2030 through '34. **Exceptional.**

Fredric Koeppel, biggerthanyourhead.net, 21 Jul 2021

International WINE REPORT

93 The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon from Corison is beautiful example of a refined Napa Cabernet. It begins with lovely aromatics of black raspberries, dark plums and hints of blackberries that are joined by graphite, tobacco, spring florals and licorice which all come together beautifully in the glass. On the palate this possesses a gorgeous medium body that is well-structured and defined, with remarkable overall balance and poise. It goes on to display wonderful freshness, and focus, along with vibrant acidity that provides a burst of energy through the long finish. This is a wonderful Cabernet that is built to age incredibly well, that said, it would be best to allow this a few years of bottle age before approaching.

Joe D'Angelo, Summer 2021

Lewin on Wine

Wine, Food, and Experiences

Nose offers a delicious faintly piquant impression, relatively aromatic, then ripeness is nicely offset by freshness on the palate. Tannins are already quite silky. The aromatics carry through to the palate, which offers subtle hints of the oak aging. This really could be enjoyed almost immediately, but should become increasingly elegant over the next few years.

Benjamin Lewin, July 12, 2021