

## 2018 Corison Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon



2018 was a nearly perfect vintage. Budbreak was delayed due to a very cool spring, but perfect weather at flowering promoted a bumper crop. The growing and ripening seasons were mild, with nary a day over 100F, giving us especially long hang time, with harvest two weeks later than average.

The complex fruit profile includes jammy raspberry, cherry, blueberry, cassis and red currants, made more complex by baking spice, anise notes and a whisper of mint. Characteristic stony minerality lifts everything and pretty floral notes of dried roses and violets perfume the aromas. The finish lingers.

- Cathy Corison



**95** The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Sunbasket Vineyard is racy and exuberant, as it always is... Ripe red cherry fruit, kirsch, rose petal, mint and spice lead into the voluptuous finish. This St. Helena Cabernet has a ton to offer. As always, the Sunbasket is a Cabernet built on texture and opulence.

Antonio Galloni, Jan 2021

## Decanter

**95** The most succulent, juicy and spry wine of the Corison lineup. Red-fruited, energetic and beaming on the nose, with aromas of fresh violets, grilled plums and Moroccan mint. Black cherries and mulberries on the palate, with the floral quality of the nose carrying through the finish.

Matthew Luczy, 13 Oct 2020



**94** Lovely purity of fruit to this with plum, chocolate and walnut character. Full-bodied with a soft, juicy palate of enticing fruit and layers of round tannins that nicely frame the wine. Juicy finish.

16 Dec, 2020

## JEB DUNNUCK

**93** The 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon Sunbasket Vineyard from a site in St. Helena offers more red plum, mulberry, and darker cherry fruits intermixed with plenty of spring flowers, sappy green herbs, and cedar-like aromas and flavors. Medium to full-bodied on the palate, it has building tannins, nicely integrated acidity, and a clean, classy finish. It's one of the more structured wines in the lineup, yet it can still be drunk today given its balance and overall charm. However, a solid 3-5 years of bottle age should do it well, and I suspect it will drink nicely over the following 15 years or more.

jebdunnuck.com, 1/27/21



While the Corison stamp of elegance is in clear evidence here, so, too, is marginally more substance and fruity heft than we have come to expect from its maker, and, in all truth, we very much like the result. Dark in color and favoring a mix of dark fruit with glimmers of dark chocolate sitting quietly off to the side, the wine is medium-full-bodied, and, if far from a

muscular, tannin-bound brute, it summons up plenty of varietal authority... Give it another four or five years on the cork, and do not be at all surprised at how well it fares when allowed to rest for ten.

August 2021



**93** Medium-dark ruby; very attractive, ripe, spicy, fragrant, raspberry and blackberry fruit aroma with hints of dried herbs, cassis, tobacco leaf, and vanilla; full body; rich, ripe, nicely balanced, red and black fruit flavors with bright acidity, and an elegant, velvety mouthfeel; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Best to age for three to five more years.

**Very highly recommended.**

Volume 47, June 2021

## vinography

The Soul of Refinement: Recent & Upcoming Releases from Corison Winery, Napa  
Dark purple in color, this wine smells of black plum and black cherry. In the mouth, muscular tannins wrap around a core of black cherry and blackcurrant with the tangy brightness of plum skin that makes the mouth water. Hints of dried flowers and licorice linger in the finish... **Score: between 9 and 9.5.**

Alder Yarrow, vinography.com, August 25, 2021

## purely domestic wine report

herbal quality on the finish. Drink 2021-2038.

**95** The nose is denser, sappy blueberry, Asian spice box and conifer needle over dried black current. The palate entry is fuller-bodied red and black stone fruit showing a core of velvet-like texture and a more lean, delicate cranberry and

*Doug Wilder, August 2021*

## WINE ENTHUSIAST

### 95 – Cellar Selection

Youthfully wound in its own elegance and structure, this vineyard-designate is ebullient and graceful, with well-defined layers of turned earth, black currant, cedar and baking spice. It holds its oak well, containing the tannins within a sturdy, elongated structure that should hold up well in the cellar. Enjoy best through 2038.

*Virginie Boone, December 1, 2021*

## THE TASTING PANEL MAGAZINE

**96** The winery has sourced fruit from this vineyard for over 25 years. This alluvial gravelly loam site is known as the ‘bench’ and it was originally planted in the early 1950’s by André Tchelistcheff, who referred to it as a sunbasket because of the amount of sunshine it received. High-toned blue and black fruit (boysenberry and blueberry) sidle up to firm tannins. Great acid structure and a gossamer finish are hallmarks of this vintage.

*Meridith May, Sept/Oct 2021*



**97** The glorious 2018 ‘Sunbasket Vineyard’ Cabernet Sauvignon is rich yet highly elegant even now at the three year mark. The nose is downright intoxicating with its dark rose petals, smoke, graphite and marionberry cordial. Once on the mouth this possesses an outstanding sense of weight and poise, presenting a massive wall of red and dark fruits with tar, tobacco leaf and espresso ground flavors. Truly gorgeous in its youth, this has another two decades or more to go. Be sure to give this a two plus hour decant if enjoying in its heady youth. Drink 2021-2045

*owenbargreen.com, September 14, 2021*

## International WINE REPORT

**95** The 2018 Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon is absolutely stunning in this vintage. It begins with lovely aromatics of black raspberries, ripe dark plums and blackberries which are laced with graphite, tobacco, spring florals, herbs and hints of sweet spices. On the palate this possesses a lovely sense of elegance, with its gorgeous medium-full body that is structured with beautifully polished tannins. It goes on to display notable depth, with remarkable overall balance and poise, as well as wonderful freshness and purity. It all comes to an end with a sleek, velvety finish that lingers. This is another sensational wine from Corison that will be accessible in its youth, but also has the potential to age gracefully.

*Joe D’Angelo, June 2021*

## wine review online.com

**97** I’m often asked to name my favorite wine – an occupational hazard – and my answer is always “I like anything that’s good.” That answer is usually followed up by a very short list of producers, and Corison is always on that list. Here is another stellar offering, one that is perfectly extracted to show bright blackberry and cassis fruit. Expert winemaking adds well-folded vanilla and spice notes that enhance the fruit and still allow a touch of dried herb to peek through. I’m a huge fan of how Cathy Corison focuses on what a vintage has to offer and then proceeds to bring it to its truest expression. Brava!

*Rich Cook, Sep 14, 2021*

## Bigger Than Your Head

The Corison Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2018, St. Helena, displays an intense black-purple hue with a violet cast and ethereal rim; the wine feels drenched by ripe, dusty, smoky, spiced and macerated black currants and cherries framed by piercing graphite minerality and an almost subliminal oak presence; a few moments in the glass open subtle notes of iodine and mint...; amid depths of leather and loam, the tannins are fairly rigorous but dusty and velvety, the texture lithe, silky and supple; the whole package an example of perfect pitch and balance, amazing power married to elegance and integration. Try from 2022 or ’23 through 2032 to ’36. Exemplary in every regard. **Exceptional.**

*Fredric Koepfel, biggerthanyourhead.net, 21 Jul 2021*

## GOOD VITIS

**96** The elegant nose emits dark cherry compote, black plum, delicate sweet chocolate, violet, rose hip, cassis, and modest sweet and toasty oak. Seemingly medium bodied, it adds weight as it sits in the palate, while the sweet, slightly dense tannins fill out and surround a core of dense and juicy acid. Precious little cabernet from anywhere in the world hits this combination of elegance and depth, especially considering the complimentary lifespan it achieves. The flavor profile includes semi-tart cherry, raspberry, mountain strawberry, cigar tobacco leaf, tanned leather, lavender, graphite, and moist soil.

*Aaron Menenberg, goodvitis.com, Nov. 14, 2021*



**95** Quite different from the Kronos Cabernet, the Sunbasket offers a soft, floral and sandalwood spice bouquet and a dense, still somewhat reticent, firm, almost crisp palate. Tannins are present but not harsh. A year in the cellar should let this wine evolve in a spectacular fashion. André Tchelistcheff, who originally planted this vineyard in the early 1950's, referred to this exceptionally sunny parcel as a "sun basket"; hence the name of this vineyard.

*Donald Winkler, i-winereview.com, Oct. 27, 2021*