

## 2017 Corison Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon



Abundant winter rains got 2017 off to a great start. In August, the belly of the ripening season, the grapes enjoyed moderate days and cool nights, perfect for flavor development. Then heat in early September turned the vintage into a sprint, with the entire harvest picked over nine consecutive days. We are grateful that all our grapes were in the barn before the fires, fermented and resting safely in barrels.

The 2017 speaks eloquently of its growing season with dense, rich, layered dark fruit flavors including black raspberries, dried cherries, dark plums, cassis and boysenberries, set off by the snappy natural acidity that is a hallmark of Corison Cabernets. It is wildly complex, with baking spice and anise notes joining dried *Herbs de Provence* and hints of peppermint. Floral perfume is already in evidence with rose petals, violets and lavender chiming in. It feels like silk velvet on the palate. ~ Cathy Corison

**Decanter** 94 Rich and dark-fruited with violet high tones and earthy, stony base notes. It has a rich, mouthfilling texture with fine, polished tannins providing a bit of grip, carrying cassis and dark cherry notes deep into the finish. *Jordan Mackay, 6 July, 2021*



Cathy Corison's 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon (Napa Valley) is a bold, racy wine. A rush of black cherry, plum, sweet tobacco, spice and cedar makes a strong opening statement. The 2017 has plenty of richness and notable density... *Antonio Galloni, January 2020*

### JamesSuckling.com

94 A succulent red with currants and fine, lightly dusty tannins. Medium to full body. Cedar and hazelnuts at the finish. Extremely refined and delicious. Drink now or hold. *February 14, 2020*



97 This 100% Cabernet Sauvignon from winemaking royalty Cathy Corison is the definition of balance and composition. Aromas of dark cherry, persimmon, and spiced coffee and cedar mesmerize before plush tannins unite with dark chocolate-covered blackberry, cigar leaf, and sweet earth. *Meridith May, Sept/Oct 2020*

### WINEENTHUSIAST

95 – **Cellar Selection** From benchland vineyards, the winemaker's perennial beauty of a wine is structured, evolved, graceful and complex, with powerful floral aromatics of rose and violet. Earthy and herbal, it tastes of rock and iron, with bright underlying invitations of cassis, tangy cherry and plum. *Virginie Boone, August 2020*



94 A very fresh, pure, high-toned style, offering a pure, almost distilled essence of damson plum, black cherry and raspberry fruit laced with floral and black tea notes. Darkens up a little on the finish, with a lingering hint of wood spice. An alluring wine. Drink now through 2034. *James Molesworth, March 31, 2021*

### vinography

The Soul of Refinement: Recent & Upcoming Releases from Corison Winery, Napa  
Dark garnet in the glass, this wine smells of black cherry and blackberries. In the mouth, juicy black cherry and blackberry fruit is shot through with lightly muscular tannins and fantastic acidity that leaves a sour cherry, mouthwatering quality to the wine. Young yet, and likely to improve for the next 10 years. **Score: between 9 and 9.5.** *Alder Yarrow, vinography.com, August 25, 2021*

## VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

**93** The 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon “Napa Valley” bottling from Cathy Corison is excellent- no surprise there! This is quite a bit riper than the old school 2016 vintage, as the 2017 tips the scales at 14.2 percent octane, but still delivers all of the purity and elegant refinement one expects from Cathy’s cabernets. The youthful bouquet wafts from the glass in a blend of black cherries, cassis, cigar smoke, Rutherford Dust and a nice touch of spicy new oak. On the palate the wine is pure, full-bodied and already quite suave on the attack, with a lovely core of fruit, very good soil signature, ripe, beautifully integrated tannins and a long, nascently complex and very well-balanced finish.

*John Gilman, Issue #87, May-June 2020*



... a Cabernet that runs more to claret-like finesse than one that emphasizes heady ripeness and lavish oak, Corison's latest nonetheless shows good fruity authority albeit in a careful, very well-balanced, near-cautious style. It is a graceful wine that will pair well with a wide range

of foods, and, if not one with an overpowering presence, it is definitely varietal and continuous in taste with the temperate, fine-grained tannins in place to ensure a half-dozen or more years of steady improvement.

*August 2020*

### purely domestic wine report

**96** The nose is herb, conifer and lavender/mint with crushed rock, bright red and black fruits with notes of cedar and cocoa. The palate entry is a seamless, sculpted tobacco, sticky black plum, camphor leading to a sleek herb-laced core of lean, well-integrated acidity. Just beautiful in its restraint. Drink 2021-2034.

*Doug Wilder, October 2020*

## falstaff

**96** You can almost smell that dusty soil of St Helena, its depth blends in with a lovely mix of dark fruit, think crushed blackberry and ripe plum. More air reveals notions of candlewax and graphite. The palate is smooth and ripe, firm, dense tannins have the feel of starched velvet, they are elegant and outlined by fine freshness. Purest blackberry shines with graphite on the fresh, long finish. Drink 2025-2040.

*Anne Krebiehl, falstaff.com, 24 March, 2022*



**92** Medium to medium-dark ruby; attractive, fragrant, dark cherry and blackberry fruit aroma with earthy notes and hints of cassis and baking spice; full body; rich, ripe, elegant, nicely balanced, red and black berry fruit flavors with notes of dried herbs and undertones of toasty oak; full tannin; lingering aftertaste. Deserves a good three to five more years of bottle aging. **Very highly recommended.** June 2020



**92** ...this (wine) is based on western benchland fruit farmed and harvested for lithe elegance rather than effusive power. At first, it gives... rose scents and some sappy rosewood notes. The fruit comes later as the tannins relent, offering black-raspberry and black-currant flavors that are clean and clear. Cathy Corison takes a long view on her cabernet, building finely structured wines to cellar.

*J.G., 9.2020*



**92+** Medium to deep garnet-purple colored, the 2017 Cabernet Sauvignon slowly unfurls to reveal a beautiful nose of warm redcurrants, black raspberries and blackcurrant pastilles with an undercurrent of violets, fragrant soil and cinnamon stick. The medium-bodied palate is elegant and refreshing, delivering elegantly styled and yet wonderfully vibrant red and black fruits flavors, finishing with an energetic herbal lift.

*Lisa Perrotti-Brown, October 2020*

## wine review online.com

**97** I've certainly made no secret of my affinity for Cathy Corison's wines – time and time again, she brings out the magic in a vintage with care and grace, seeking true expression of time and place without force of hand. The legacy continues here, and I'm not going to spoil your discovery with a detailed description. If you want a window into what Cathy is all about, taste this bottling alongside the 2016 vintage. The wines' characteristics couldn't be more different within the Cabernet spectrum, but the crystalline quality and execution couldn't be more the same. A true California treasure she is, and this bottle is another example. Brava!

*Rich Cook, August 18, 2020*

**93** The 2017 Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon is a wonderful showing from Cathy Corison. It begins with inviting aromatics of black raspberries, cassis and plum, which are woven together with cedar box, tobacco, fresh violets, licorice and underlying wet gravel nuances all developing beautifully in the glass. On the palate this possesses a medium-plus-bodied with a gorgeous supple texture, driven by a ripe core that pushes out concentrated flavors of black raspberry cordial, black plum, baking spices and tobacco. It goes on to impress with its outstanding combination of opulence and finesse all the way through the long lingering finish... it is absolutely stunning today, yet given the track record of Corison, there is no reason to believe this won't also age gracefully for at least a decade or two.

*Joe D'Angelo, April 2020*

## Daniel Mangin

California Wine & Travel

It's difficult not to like a wine this expertly conceived and executed. Emphatically Cabernet, it reflects its origins (three vineyards between Rutherford and St. Helena) and vintage... Three attributes in particular struck me about this 100% Cabernet Sauvignon: the vein of acidity that underlies the fruit, the way the tannins lightly tickled my tongue, and the subtly long finish.

*dannymangin.com, June 2020*



**95** The 2017 Corison 'Napa Valley' Cabernet Sauvignon is a stunning new wine by famed Napa vintner Cathy Corison. Needing a one hour decant, immediately you are drawn to the high-toned red rose petal aromatics, woven together with tar, anise and *creme de cassis* tones on this evocative bouquet. The pretty and heady aromatics bring

you back to the glass for more delight. Once on the palate silky, elegant tannins line the core of dark fruits with shades of coffee grounds, loamy *terroir* and violets intermingling. The length, finesse and softness of the wine really impresses, as this downright awesome effort will cellar well for many decades to come. Drink 2020-2038

*Owen Bargreen, 8/21/20*

## Drink the Bottles

**97** What immediately struck us was how mature and fine this wine appeared in the glass and on the nose, introducing layers of fresh violet bouquet, cedar plank, dusty spice box and whiffs of tar. The wine is 100% Cabernet Sauvignon and it rewards the taster with black cherry, plum, blackberry pie with a sweet crust and dried spices. The violets are always dancing in the glass. The finesse on this work of art is evident by the long and memorable, effortless finish. You get mesmerized by the amazing fragrances and stunning color of this wine and it is truly one that makes you wish your glass was bottomless. Incredible!

*Jeff Lawson, drinkthebottles.com, August 31, 2020*

## The Nittany Epicurean

**Top Wine of 2020** Dark ruby color. blackberry, cherry, cassis, vanilla, eucalyptus, raspberry preserves and oak on the nose. Black cherry, cassis, raspberry, blackberry, plum, eucalyptus, vanilla and oak on the palate where the dark berry fruit took center stage. The wine was full-bodied and exhibited great length along with velvety tannins. This wine is ready to be enjoyed now alongside a classic preparation of Osso Buco.

*Michael Chelus, Nov. 23, 2020*



**97** The nose is fruity, beautifully elegant and offers delicacy, deepness, power and complexity. It reveals notes of ripe wild cassis, small black fruits, notes of ripe wild strawberry, sour cherry, violet plum, lily as well as hints of sweet spices... The palate is fruity, well-balanced and offers good definition... a beautiful precision, as well as deepness and purity of the fruit. On the palate this wine expresses notes of crushed cassis, boysenberry, notes of wild strawberry, violet plum, a subtle hint of cornflower, a sense of place, vanilla and toasted hazelnut. Good length. Beautiful persistence. A wine full of elegance, delicacy and controlled power. Tannins are fine, elegant and precise. Congrats!

*- translated from French, Jonathan Choukroun Chicheportiche, Spring 2021*