

2021 Helios Sunbasket Vineyard Cabernet Franc



Weather in the spring and summer of 2021 produced a small crop of tiny, flavorful berries. Then a long, cool ripening season brought the fruit to balanced deliciousness with wildly complex flavors.

This Cabernet Franc delights with a wonderful tension between power and elegance. Robust cherry flavors play with green olive, notes of bay leaf, fresh mint and *Herbes de Provence*, with white pepper notes chiming in. A graceful floral perfume of peonies and violets tops it off.

~ Cathy Corison



******* 95** A fascinating wine that's elegant, complex and mysterious. The deep, dark aromas of red currants and blackcurrants, earthy and meaty notes lead to a rich but focused palate that pulls the fruit and spices forward. Subtleties of flint, rosemary and dried cherries are supported by fine-grained tannins that you hardly notice and brisk acidity. Medium- to full-bodied. Drink or hold. *jamessuckling.com, July 27, 2024*



94 The 2021 Cabernet Franc Helios Sunbasket Vineyard is gorgeous. Fresh and aromatically expressive, the 2021 is wonderfully silky and nuanced right out of the gate. Crushed flowers, sweet red berry fruit, mint, spice, orange peel and pipe tobacco all grace this wonderfully transparent, expressive Franc from Cathy Corison. *Antonio Galloni, Vinous, December 2023*

WINE ENTHUSIAST

97 Pleasing, poised, and satisfying, this Cabernet Franc delivers the best of the variety in classic expression. The aromatics include a crackle of pink and black peppercorns and a mix of fresh herbs. The flavors combine firm red and black fruits, pithy pink grapefruit notes, and the lightest touch of chocolate mint. The tannins are fine grained and abundant enough to drink now alongside a meal or hold in cellar for aging. *Elaine Chukan Brown, Wine Enthusiast Magazine, November 2023*

VIEW FROM THE CELLAR

94 Cathy Corison's 2021 Cabernet Franc bottling from the Sunbasket Vineyard is outstanding. It comes in at a well-measured 13.9 percent octane and delivers a vibrant and utterly refined bouquet of cassis, sweet dark berries, menthol, cigar wrapper, dark soil tones, a very elegant framing of new oak and a smoky topnote. On the palate the wine is bright, focused and full-bodied, with a sappy core of fruit, lovely soil inflection, ripe, buried tannins and a long, bouncy and complex finish.

John Gilman, View from the Cellar, May-June 2024, #111

vinography

Medium to dark garnet in the glass, this wine smells of cherry, crushed nuts, and violets. In the mouth, cherry and floral flavors are wrapped in a muscular sheaf of tannins that squeezes the palate even as juicy black plum and cherry notes linger in the finish. Excellent acidity. *Alder Yarrow, Vinography.com, May 4, 2024*



97 The 2021 'Helios Sunbasket Vineyard' Cabernet Franc is a stunning wine coming from this warm vintage. Once on the nose this exudes class with black rose petals, anise, black currant cordial and rocky soils. The palate is soft and refined with a pillowy texture and great sense of tension and length. A knockout wine from a great vintage, showing great herbal character with plenty of power and finesse, enjoy this beautiful wine over the next twenty years to come. *owenbargreen.com, April 18, 2024*



95 The 2021 Sunbasket Vineyard 'Helios' is beautiful. It begins to open with a fresh aromatic profile of raspberries and cherries which are joined together by spices, spring florals, graphite, lavender, wet stones and tobacco all taking shape. On the palate this possesses a gorgeous medium-body that is beautifully structured around fine-grained tannins and a sappy core laced with sweet red berries. Showing wonderful elegance, this continues to display outstanding overall focus and purity through the long, precise finish. This is built for the long-haul and clearly possesses the characteristics to become even more compelling with time.

Joe D'Angelo, International Wine Report, April 2024



93 This lovely version takes a decidedly fresh approach, with loganberry and mulberry fruit streaming through, laced with hints of leather, dried iris and sweet tobacco. A subtle iron note twangs through the finish. Drink now through 2035.

James Molesworth, August 2024



94 Deep garnet-purple colored, it skips out with energetic notes of black raspberries, fresh red currants, and lavender, giving way to hints of tar, roses, and Sichuan pepper. The medium-bodied palate is light on its feet and refreshing with fine-grained tannins and a long fragrant finish.

Lisa Perrotti-Brown, The Wine Independent, January 16, 2025