



The core of our *Cain Concept—The Benchland* is Cabernet Sauvignon from the classical “benchlands” of the Napa Valley. These are the alluvial-fan benches that form at the foot of the mountains lining the edges of the valley floor. We think that the Cabernet Sauvignon grown on the eastern and western benches of Oakville, Rutherford, and St. Helena have defined the greatness of the Napa Valley for more than 100 years.

In the “Cain Way,” we blend small quantities of Cabernet Franc and Merlot with the Cabernet Sauvignon to build complexity, to add nuance, to articulate the structure, and to add length to the finish of the wine. The Franc gives a bit of lift to the nose, and the Merlot adds a bit of fat to the entry and mid-palate.

2006 will surely be noted as a classic year for Napa Valley Cabernet. The vineyards had moderate yields that ripened under a warm sun. As these things go, it was easy work in both the vineyard and in the cellar. The *Benchlands* did their stuff, keeping the vines in check and nursing them along to full ripeness. At the moment (March, 2010), I like the 2004, for complexity, and the 2006, for purity and focus.

The 2006 Cain Concept opens up excruciatingly slowly—but surely. In a couple of hours after opening, there are hints of black cherry liqueur (believe me, it takes that long), then comes a delicate note of cedar. Even though this wine wants another ten years, you can drink it today. A smooth, sweet entry carries along to a rich, chocolaty mid-palate followed by a warm and graceful but firm finish. With its iron backbone and finely honed edge, the 2006 Cain Concept will cut through the thickest of steaks like a Kasumi knife.

Our winemaking program is simple and similar for all our wines: hand picking, gentle destemming, native-yeast fermentation, thoughtful maceration, and manual pressing. The wines complete malolactic fermentation in the barrel, are blended in the spring following harvest, and are racked barrel to barrel. The *2006 Cain Concept—The Benchland* was egg-white fined and bottled without filtration in June of 2008, following 21 months in French oak (75% new).

#### **Varietal Content:**

78% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 2% Cabernet Franc  
5229 cases produced

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#### **About Cain Vineyard & Winery**

Cain Vineyard & Winery overlooks the Napa Valley from the top of Spring Mountain. The estate vineyard is planted to the five classic Bordeaux varieties—Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, and Malbec. We produce three Cabernet blends: Cain Five (from our mountain vineyard), Cain Concept (from the famed benchlands of the Napa Valley), and Cain Cuvée (a “Cain original” with fruit from both the mountains and the valley).

Christopher Howell, General Manager/Winemaker