



Harvest & Varietal Information

VINEYARDS: 100% Napa Valley

VARIETIES: 65% Cabernet Sauvignon, 4% Merlot, 23% Cabernet Franc, 8% Petit Verdot

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The *2014 Cain Concept—The Benchland* seems to be our purest expression yet of the potential of the great vineyard sites of the Napa Valley. Breathtakingly pure of fruit, it is extremely fresh and not at all overripe. Nonetheless, it still possesses that indefinable, ‘je ne sais quois’ complexity of a natural fermentation. A deep purple color presages an unusual association of black cherries and raspberries on the nose. On the palate, the wine is silky smooth and satisfyingly mouthfilling—again, without being at all cloying. There’s a lovely touch of bitterness to the finish, which is refreshingly and delightfully clean.

This vintage is about two-thirds Cabernet Sauvignon, and three-quarters Rutherford, grown in some of the very best sites on both the east and west sides of the valley. This is complemented by Merlot and Cabernet Franc grown in the cooler, clayier soils of Carneros—undoubtedly a key to complexity of this wine. One hundred percent Cain.

What would the Cain Five taste like if it were grown in the more classical famous vineyards of the Napa Valley—the Rutherford Bench, for example? Cain Concept—The Benchland is our answer. Made side-by-side with the Cain Five, simply grown on the valley floor—some of the very best spots in the valley, I might add—the Cain Concept shares all the subtlety and grace of the Cain Five, and what it may lack in the idiosyncratic personality of the Cain Five, it more than makes up in generosity of fruit.

Many people have said that 2014 was the third great vintage in a row for the Napa Valley. Tasting this wine today, I would have to agree. Drinking beautifully now, it will surely continue to do so for the next twenty years. Today it wants a steak, the classical pairing for ‘Napa Cab.’ Simply grilled, a point, with a few herbs please.

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, and from two vintages).

Christopher Howell, Wine-grower/General Manager