



Harvest & Varietal Information

VINEYARDS: **Oakville/Rutherford:** Beckstoffer: Georges III, Hopper Creek, and To Kalon; Garvey Family **Carneros:** Truchard **Atlas Peak:** Stagecoach

VARIETIES: 48% Cabernet Sauvignon, 25% Merlot, 18% Cabernet Franc, 9% Petit Verdot

PRODUCTION: 4,829 cases RELEASE DATE: April 1, 2012

The core of our *Cain Concept—The Benchland* is about 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. This makes up about half of the blend.

But, on its own the Cabernet can be a bit simple, so, in the “Cain Way,” we have blended judicious quantities of Cabernet Franc, Merlot, and Petit Verdot with 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 gives a bit of fat to the entry and mid-palate, while the Verdot adds spice and backbone to the blend.

At just under 50%, the 2008 Cain Concept has the lowest percentage of Cabernet Sauvignon that we have had to date. But the Cabernet was tight and concentrated, so we were able to build on this core with the other varieties. With aromas of pound cake, dried cherries, Christmas spice and mocha, the wine has a silky smooth entry with very fine tannins that flow continuously to a gentle easy finish. This is what the Napa Valley is all about. Enjoy the wine today, or in ten years.

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 periodically racked from the barrel and returned back to the same barrels, usually egg-white fined, and often lightly filtered—all of this is the process known as *élevage*, which clarifies and matures the wine. Following 20 months in French oak (65% new), the *2008 Cain Concept—The Benchland* was bottled in June of 2010.

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, Winemaker/General Manager