



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, 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 backbone to the blend.

2005 was an almost perfect year—neither too hot nor too cool, no undue stress. In sum, happy healthy vines. The only issue was that perhaps some vineyards tended to over produce. This is where the benchlands are so important because, with their well-drained, gravelly soils, they naturally hold the vines in check. Even so, it was important to pay attention to yield in 2005 and to eliminate excess crop.

Opening the 2005 Cain Concept, you’ll be struck by the absolute generosity and richness of this wine. In my mind, it is almost too rich. You’ll need time to cut through all the chocolate and cocoa powder. With patience, you will find notes of coffee, tea, and raspberry eau-de-vie, which the French call framboise. The wine has a solid structure, but it is nicely polished. It tastes great today, but it will be good to go for another ten to twenty 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 racked barrel to barrel. The *2005 Cain Concept—The Benchland* was egg-white fined and bottled without filtration in June of 2007, following 21 months in French oak (75% new).

#### **Varietal Content:**

58% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 17% Cabernet Franc, 7% Petit Verdot,  
5907 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