



### **Harvest & Varietal Information:**

Appellation: Napa Valley  
55 Lots Hand Harvested & Vinified Separately

<b>Appellation</b>	Napa Valley
<b>20 Lots Selected for Cain Five</b>	Harvest Dates
Cabernet Sauvignon - 13	September 9 - October 8, 1996
Merlot - 2	October 1, 1996
Cabernet Franc - 2	September 20 - October 7, 1996
Malbec - 1	September 25, 1996
Petit Verdot - 2	October 8-10, 1996
<b>Percent Estate</b>	61%
<b>Total time in Barrel</b>	20 months
<b>Bottled</b>	June 12-18, 1998
<b>Production</b>	6,485 cases of 750ml bottles
<b>Release Date</b>	January 1, 2000
<b>Suggested Retail</b>	\$66 per bottle

The 1996 harvest came early and hot. Despite the heat of August, it was essential to wait for thorough, but gentle ripening. The heat seemed to most affect a few of our earlier-ripening blocks, where as much as a third of the already small crop was lost. However, the Cabernet fruit that remained, ripened well and ultimately made some of our best wines.

We waited. And we thanked Jerry and Joyce Cain for planting not one but five varieties, because this is a year where each variety counts.

This year, the Merlots contribute depth and upfront fleshiness, the Malbec is deep and fruity, the Francs are quite concentrated, while the Verdots surprised us: rich and plush, with tremendous fruit wrapped around the tannins. Overall, the lots used in the 1996 Cain Five are big: the colors are dark, the aromas are fragrant, yet not altogether jammy, and the tannins are firm.

Christopher Howell, Winemaker/General Manager