



Harvest & Varietal Information

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

VARIETIES: 57% Cabernet Sauvignon, 18% Merlot, 13% Cabernet Franc, 12% Petit Verdot

PRODUCTION: 4,208 cases

RELEASE DATE: May 1, 2011

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 Sauvignon can be a bit simple, so, in the “Cain Way,” we have blended judicious quantities of Cabernet Franc, Merlot, and Petit Verdot 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.

2007 will be recognized as the best year of the decade for Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. Moderate yields, uniform ripening, a warm May, followed by a moderate summer and a warm September brought everything together. If there were a tiny quibble with this vintage it would be about ripeness, which was so easy to attain that it might be possible to overshoot. Fault this wine, perhaps, for too much generosity.

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 in the process known as *élevage*, which clarifies and matures the wine, smoothing off the edges and pulling it together. The *2007 Cain Concept—The Benchland* was egg-white fined and bottled without filtration in June of 2009, following 21 months in French oak (75% new).

About Cain Vineyard & Winery

Cain Vineyard & Winery overlooks St. Helena from the top of Spring Mountain in the western mountains of Napa Valley. The estate vineyard is planted to the five classic Bordeaux varieties: Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Malbec, and Petit Verdot. We make three wines: Cain Cuvée; Cain Concept, representing the classical benchlands of the Napa Valley; and our signature blend, Cain Five.

Christopher Howell, Winemaker/General Manager