



## Harvest & Varietal Information

VINEYARD LOCATIONS: Rutherford, Oakville, Yountville, Spring Mountain, and Atlas Peak

VINTAGES: 54% 2008, 39% 2007, 7% 2006

VARIETIES: 48% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Sauvignon 14% Cabernet Franc, 6% Petit Verdot

PRODUCTION: 10,594 cases    RELEASE DATE: November 1, 2011

The **Cain Cuvée** reflects our vision of what a classical red wine can be. Our intention is to create a Cabernet blend that sits lightly and refreshingly on the palate. At the same time, we are guided by the same criteria that drive all of our winemaking—complexity, balance, and finish. We deliberately style this wine so that it is at once more sleek and more approachable, while at the same time preserving a fresh vibrancy. We're walking a tightrope here. It is along this dynamic tension that we can find a wine that is both lively and captivating, and, at the same time, immediately delicious. Because the wine is balanced and not overripe, it has great aging potential, and it can even improve for a day or two after it's been opened.

The principal factors that define the **Cain Cuvée** are the vineyard sources, the vinification, the blending, and the *élevage*. The Cuvée blend draws on a few key components to make it what it is. Mountain grown Cabernet Franc contributes the aromatic top notes; Merlot grown on the clay lenses of the valley floor lays down the silky base; selected lots with an extra year of barrel-age layer in complexity. Because this wine is intended to be based more on the perfume than on the palate, we tend to pick a bit less ripe; we try to get the grapes on the inside edge of ripeness, while they're still fresh and lively. Then, we practice a very simple vinification—just let the native yeasts do their thing—and go easy on the extraction so that we can achieve a more supple mouth feel. After blending, we continue the theme with a more gentle *élevage*—less time in barrels, fewer new barrels, and less frequent racking. In this way, it is classically Napa Valley, and classically Cain.

We're working with some of the best and most interesting grapes grown in a few key spots scattered throughout the Napa Valley—both on the valley floor and on the hillsides. The NV7 blend consists of nearly one-half Merlot, intended to contribute to a silkier feel for this wine—but not just any Merlot: some of these vineyards are growing on the more clayey sections of the floor of the Napa Valley. The yields are consequently lower, and the grapes have plenty of flavor. More than a third of this wine is drawn from fruit grown in the mountains—both from Stagecoach Vineyards and from much closer to home, at the famous York Creek Vineyards, where Fritz Maytag has been growing some of the best grapes in the Napa Valley for more than forty years. Another unique element of the **Cain Cuvée** is our use of two primary vintages in the blend—in this case there are actually three vintages. The NV8 consists primarily of 2008 (hence the "8") complemented with a significant proportion of the excellent 2007 vintage and a soupçon of the 2006, which we love. All of these factors contribute to a wine that is both well balanced, surprisingly complex, and with a unique personality. To sum up: it will hold your attention for many evenings and many years to come.

### About Cain Vineyard & Winery

Cain Vineyard & Winery overlooks St. Helena from the top of Spring Mountain in the western hills of Napa Valley. The estate vineyard is planted to the five classic varieties of the Cabernet Family: 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, grown in our estate vineyard.

Christopher Howell, Winemaker/General Manager

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