



### Harvest & Varietal Information

VINTAGES: 48% 2013, 52% 2014

VINEYARD LOCATIONS: 64% Spring Mountain District, 36% Valley Floor, 100% Napa Valley

RELEASE DATE: September 1, 2018

The NV14 is the richest, most dense Cain Cuvée we've ever bottled. The wine is dark and the bouquet is shy. You won't really "get it" until you put it in your mouth and savor its firm, round fullness and smooth texture. The wine finishes with a satisfying bitterness.

Today, outside of Champagne, the blending of vintages has been nearly forgotten and lost, except with Cain Cuvée. Though the vineyards are the same, no two vintages are ever identical. Certainly a thoughtful blend of two vintages can yield a more balanced, more complex, and more interesting wine than either could be by itself. Nevertheless, each bottling of our NV series will be different, reflecting the two vintages contributing to the blend.

To understand the generosity of the NV14, you have to think back to the two vintages of which it's composed: 2014 and 2013. The 2013 offered structure and complexity, while the 2014 was the most serious and restrained, and the most structured of the two. On the North Coast, 2013 and 2014 have been known as the drought years. This had to affect both the vines and wines, particularly the 2014, coming as the second in a series. In 2014, rain finally arrived, mercifully, just before spring. So it makes sense that 2014 would turn out more on the severe side.

The NV14 also illustrates our commitment to wines that transcend fruit. Like beer, bread, cheese and charcuterie, wine is also about fermentation. We seek to engender the fermentations and embrace the results, having long found that the fermentations can bring a wine into another dimension, one of savory complexity. Look for yeasty, meaty, even earthy notes together with a satisfying, mouthfilling sensation.

Although the NV14 Cain Cuvée is dense, it is eminently drinkable. Drinkability—immediate drinkability—is what our Cain Cuvée project has been all about since the beginning, when we blended the first wines of this series, back in 1990. And, while we love to drink these wines in their youth, our surprise has been just how beautifully they have evolved over time, even going back to the very first, now, nearly thirty years ago.

Christopher Howell, Wine-Grower