

Harvest & Varietal Information

Beckstoffer—George III, To Kalon, Missouri Hopper, Stagecoach, Truchard, Claes

VINEYARDS: Oakville: 25% Rutherford: 22% Atlas Peak: 30% Los Carneros 14% Diamond Mountain 9%

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

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION: 4,208 cases

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It is a privilege to be able to revisit one's work years after the fact, one that I fully appreciate at Cain. Today, eight years after the harvest, the 2007 Cain Concept is round, smooth, seamless, and satisfying. It reflects the year. With retrospect, there is no doubt that 2007 was and will be thought to have been the best vintage of the decade—and that, of very many good vintages in the period. 2007 was perfection—especially in the Benchlands of the Napa Valley, where yields were moderate and vigor found its balance.

At Cain, we've always valued restraint. For the Cain Concept, we picked some fabled vineyards weeks before others did. Our reward is that the wine is aging gracefully and is still clearly in its youth. Here the charm, the generosity, and finesse of the best Cabernets of the Napa Valley are on full display.

Here is some of what I wrote five years ago, when this wine was first released:

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.

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.