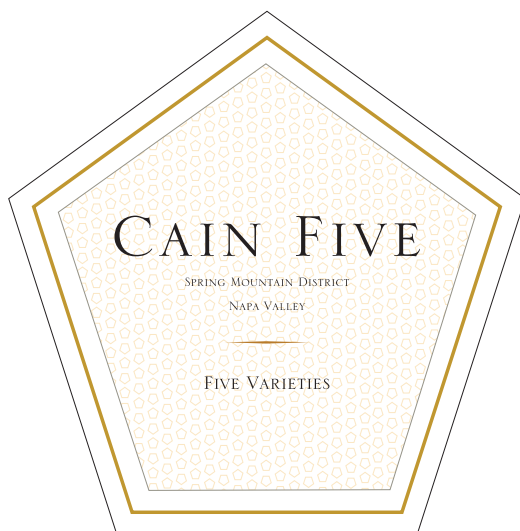




2021 Cain Five

Harvest & Varietal Information

Spring Mountain District, Napa Valley

VARIETIES: 59% Cabernet Sauvignon, 20% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Franc, 9% Malbec, 1% Petit Verdot

PRODUCTION: 442 (9L) cases RELEASE DATE: September 1, 2025

We started thinking about the 2021 Cain Five in January of that year. By then, we were just beginning to truly understand the devastation of the Glass Fire of 2020. We knew that we didn't know everything, but we did know that we had lost a lot. By then we knew that about 15% of the vines survived. Many rows were unscathed: in certain rows a few vines were lost, while others thrived. But nature continues. We would have a harvest. The season brought forth buds, shoots, leaves, flower, and grapes. The grapes turned purple. As they developed, not every shoot, nor every cluster was well.

As harvest approached, we observed the fruit carefully. That September, the weather was beneficent – neither too hot, nor too cold – and ripening continued apace. We were to bring in our small crop, each variety, each block in the moment we thought ideal. We also reached out to some neighbors to see if they could provide us with some additional fruit. Luckily, we were able to secure some beautiful fruit, two nearby vineyards: York Creek Vineyards and Eeden Vineyards.

Our winemaking followed the same methods we had developed over three decades; gentle destemming, leaving whole berries; maceration, allowing native yeast to begin their spontaneous fermentation; judicious cuvaision, to capture the essence of what each block had to give; and gentle pressing to avoid harsh tannins. As soon as the grapes of the 2021 vintage began to ferment, we were thrilled to find the familiar aromas of the wines of previous years: floral notes – rose, jasmine, the evanescent daphne; herbal notes – thyme, rosemary, tarweed; forest notes – Douglas fir and bay laurel. As the wine developed, the amazingly silky tannins were revealed. With the addition of our neighbor's selections, we found an element of roundness that complements the Cain notes.

Our élevage also remained the same, too. Following a careful selection of the wines, we assembled the blend; we topped the barrels, we racked the wine, we gave it a gentle egg-white fining; we bottled the wine unfiltered and finally laid the wine down for the past four years. It is a beautiful wine. The only problem is that there isn't much of it. Just 442 cases.

Christopher Howell, Wine-Grower