

CAIN VINEYARD

Cain Cuvée NV16

Image
Coming Soon

From the beginning, Cain has not tried to “out-Napa” Napa. Instead, it has insisted on a quieter, more intellectual aspiration: that a Cabernet-based wine can be classical without being generic, and that the best argument for greatness is not sheer ripeness, but the particularity of a site – and the discipline to let it speak. Founded in 1980 when Jerry and Joyce Cain acquired 550 acres of the historic McCormick Ranch on Spring Mountain, the estate was planted to the five classic Bordeaux varieties and has been guided since 1991 by winemaker Christopher Howell, whose commitment to classical technique and mountain restraint has defined the house style for over three decades.

Cain Cuvée is a “Cain original” – intentionally more approachable and famously multi-vintage, drawing fruit from both mountain and valley sites. Since 1998, blending two vintages has been central to the project. As Christopher Howell writes: the intention has not wavered since the very first, more than thirty years ago – harvested, vinified, and blended for freshness, lightness, complexity, and balance.

The NV16 illustrates perfectly how two vintages complement one another. 2015 was moderately warm with very low yields; 2016 was cooler with higher yields. The 2016 lots contribute lovely, light, perfumed character, while 2015 plumps it up with roundness and warmth. The signature of the Cain Vineyard comes through clearly, while vineyards in Rutherford, Oakville, and Carneros each contribute their part. The result steps lightly and with elegance – mouthfilling without being heavy, slipping down easy to a delicate, clean finish. For Cain Cuvée, early picking is de rigueur: the grapes are grabbed just in time, before freshness fades, then handled with the same delicacy in the cellar.

“Harvested, vinified, and blended for freshness, lightness, complexity, and balance.”

APPELLATION

Napa Valley

VINTAGES

2015, 2016

VINEYARD SOURCES

*41% Spring Mountain District,
59% Valley Floor*

VALLEY SOURCES

Rutherford, Oakville, Carneros

STYLE

Multi-Vintage Blend

COOPERAGE

French Oak

WINEMAKER

Christopher Howell