



# CAIN VINEYARD

## *Cain Cuvée NV18*

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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” – a wine for the table, meant to enhance your meal rather than make a statement about itself. Since 1998, blending two vintages has been central to the project: harvested, vinified, and blended for freshness, lightness, complexity, and balance.

In the NV18, the Cain Vineyard more than dominates, contributing over three-quarters of the total, split evenly between the two vintages, while Merlot grown on the valley floor provides a silky-fruity backdrop. The two vintages complement one another beautifully: 2017 will be remembered for the first in a series of Napa wildfires, and most of the 2017 component is Merlot harvested before the fires – lovely, light, perfumed lots ideal for Cuvée. Then 2018, a truly wonderful year, gave the full gamut with which to compose. The result is a wine of surprising complexity and depth that will age easily for another decade or more.

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

### **APPELLATION**

*Napa Valley*

### **VINTAGES**

*2017, 2018*

### **VINEYARD SOURCES**

*78% Spring Mountain District,  
22% Valley Floor*

### **STYLE**

*Multi-Vintage Blend*

### **COOPERAGE**

*French Oak*

### **WINEMAKER**

*Christopher Howell*