



# CAIN VINEYARD

## *Cain Five*

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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 Five is the flagship of the estate and the wine that motivated the founding: a classical five-variety Bordeaux blend grown entirely from Cain’s spectacular terraced vineyard near the crest of the Mayacamas Range. The vineyard grows in a bowl carved into the south-west corner of the Spring Mountain District, with steep exposures to all points of the compass. The poor clay and shale soils, formed from sedimentary rock some 140 million years old, are a key factor in the wine’s distinctive aromatic complexity and fine-grained tannins. Elevation and exposure to cool Pacific winds contribute a delicate freshness and long ageability unlike anything else in the world of Napa Cabernet.

The inaugural vintage was 1985. After replanting onto phylloxera-resistant rootstocks through 2006, estate-grown production resumed with the 2007 vintage. The 2020 Glass Fire burned through the bowl of the vineyard and destroyed the winery. In 2021, the second redevelopment began – drawing on four decades of accumulated knowledge to create a vineyard even more vibrant, better-suited to its place, and best-adapted for the future. Given the unique character of the site, the cellar philosophy is one of minimal intervention: native yeast, gentle maceration, progressive *élevage* in barrel, egg-white fining, and no filtration.

*“The depth and complexity, the subtle aromas of flowers, herbs, forest, and earth, along with the delicate silky texture, all reflect a wine utterly unique in the world of Napa Cabernets – the Cain Five is unto itself.”*

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### **APELLATION**

*Spring Mountain District,  
Napa Valley*

### **BLEND**

*Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot,  
Cabernet Franc, Malbec, Petit Verdot*

### **VINEYARD**

*100% Cain Vineyard  
Estate Grown – Estate Bottled*

### **ELEVATION**

*1,400–2,100 ft*

### **SOILS**

*Clay and shale; Franciscan  
Mélange sedimentary (~140M yrs)*

### **VINIFICATION**

*Native yeast fermentation;  
gentle maceration; egg-white  
fining; no filtration*

### **COOPERAGE**

*French Oak*

### **WINEMAKER**

*Christopher Howell*

## **ACCOLADES**

**97** – 2021, *Decanter*

**95** – 2018, *James Suckling*

**95** – 2011, *Decanter*