

EST. 2000

CITY VINEYARD

FINE WINE • CRAFT BEER • GOURMET FOOD

Gold Club September 2025

Cain Vineyards NV14 Cuvee' St. Helena, Napa Valley, California

About the wine: In 1980, Jerry and Joyce Cain purchased 550 acres, part of the historic McCormick Ranch, on Spring Mountain. Five generations of McCormick have grown up on the McCormick Ranch, and much of the ranch is still in family hands. The tradition of the homestead is embodied today in the McCormick Sanctuary, which, through the generosity of the founding family, has become part of the California State Park System. Nothing that they do at Cain could be called unique—in fact, it could be called classical winemaking. Nevertheless, the sum of their choices yields a wine that is uniquely Cain. Making red wine can be reduced to the most elemental, timeless recipe—and that is how they approach it. They are dedicated to the creation of three Cabernet blends, each drawn from its own unique vineyard sources, each with its own distinctive signature: Cain Cuvée, Cain Concept, and Cain Five. This blend is unique, in that it is blended from two different vintages, 2013 & 2014, from three different vineyards. The Bordeaux blend for the NV14 is 48% Merlot, 31% Cabernet Sauvignon, 13% Cabernet Franc, and 8% Petit Verdot.

About the Region: Cain Vineyard & Winery is cradled in a spectacular bowl overlooking the Napa Valley from the crest of the Spring Mountain District. The Spring Mountain District AVA is a Napa Valley Appellation known for its exposure to the coastal influence of the Pacific Ocean, making it the coolest and wettest of all the Napa Valley AVAs. Spring Mountain's craggy façade means that the vineyards tend to be small, spread out and surrounded by forest. This provides some shade and protection for the vines, as does the east-facing hills. The elevation also mitigates Napa Valley's heat so in general Spring Mountain Cabernets are quite tannic and age worthy as well as elegant and not overly fruity. One soils expert has said, "This unique combination of soils, geology, topography and flora sets Spring Mountain apart from surrounding regions." Cabernet Sauvignon is not the only grape grown in the Spring Mountain District. The region's topography and range of microclimates make a happy home for a wide range of varieties, from Chardonnay and Riesling to Pinot Noir and Merlot.

Tasting Notes: Although the NV14 Cain Cuvée is dense, it is eminently drinkable. Drinkability—immediate drinkability— is what the Cain Cuvée project has been all about since the beginning, when they blended the first wines of this series, back in 1990. The tasting notes describe an aromatic, savory, and rich blend of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, and Petit Verdot, with flavors of dark fruits (plum, blackberry) and underlying notes of earth, smoke, leather, mocha, and flowers. It has a full body, firm and round fullness, and a smooth, satisfyingly bitter finish. You won't really get it until you taste it, and savor it's firm, round fullness and smooth texture!

Food Pairing: Pairing ideas for Cain Cuvée NV14 include hearty meals such as roasted meats, lamb, and rich stews, complementing the wine's smooth tannins and savory, earthy, and meaty notes. The wine also pairs well with dishes featuring ingredients like mushrooms, onions, and Gruyère cheese. Serve grilled meat, hearty fish, or potatoes with a compound butter featuring smoked paprika, garlic, and lemon, or porcini and parmesan. Fall is coming in Montana, how about roasted duck with a tart cherry and five-spice sauce? Delicious!