

FOR: BLACKBIRD VINEYARDS

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BLACKBIRD VINEYARDS RECORDS A TOP FINISH IN ITS THIRD YEAR AT THE ANNUAL PREMIERE NAPA VALLEY BARREL AUCTION

Its five-case auction lot sells for \$12,000—placing it in the 92% percentile of all lots

(SAINT HELENA, CA; February 23rd, 2009)—This past Saturday, February 21st, marked the 13th annual **Premiere Napa Valley** wine auction where over \$1.5 million was raised to support the efforts of the Napa Valley Vintners organization. Over 200 Napa Valley wineries participated in the event with **Blackbird Vineyards'** five-case lot garnering \$2,400 per case (a 125% increase over the 2006 release price).

“To place in the top 20 barrel lots—and see Blackbird in the company of other highly coveted wine producers—is a true honor. Our barrel lot from the 2007 vintage offers a beautiful perspective on Napa Valley grape growing—with harmony in the wine’s aromatics, flavors, and mouthfeel. We were pleased to preview its elegance alongside the 2006 vintage portfolio of wines at Blackbird’s sister brand, **Ma(i)sonry Napa Valley** (www.maisonry.com).”

Together, winemaker Sarah Gott and winegrower Aaron Pott crafted a one-of-a-kind lot (70% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc, and 5% Cabernet Sauvignon) for this event. Pott (previously of Quintessa and Chateau Troplong Mondot in St. Emillion, France) comments that the 2007 blend offers, “notes of cedar, blueberry, violets, and cherry on the palate with an impressive texture and finish.”

On the Friday prior to the auction, Blackbird Vineyards’ proprietor, Michael Polenske, and winegrower Aaron Pott hosted an intimate luncheon and wine tasting preview outside on Ma(i)sonry Napa Valley’s 36-foot long communal redwood table in Yountville, CA. This new, collective wine and design gallery debuted this fall and provided a stunning backdrop for highlighting the 2007 barrel sample and the currently allocated 2006 vintage wines.

Founded in 2003 by Michael Polenske, Blackbird Vineyards is an artisanal producer of Pomerol-inspired wines from the Napa Valley. Planted in 1997, the estate vineyard is located in the heart of the Oak Knoll District—a region appreciated for its moderate climate and deep, gravelly soils. The vineyard’s valley floor topography presents optimum growing conditions for Winemaker Sarah Gott and Winegrower Aaron Pott to produce an elegantly styled, appropriately balanced red wine that offers short- and long-term cellaring potential. Limited quantities are available through an allocated mailing list direct from the winery and in fine restaurants and hotels around the world.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL WAGSTAFF WORLDWIDE, 323.871.1151