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B L A C K B I R D
V I N E Y A R D S

Blackbird Vineyards' Winemaker Aaron Pott Named a 2012 Winemaker of the Year
Food & Wine magazine awards Pott with Top Honor



(NAPA VALLEY, CA; October 18, 2012)—Blackbird Vineyards' Winemaker Aaron Pott has been named 2012 “Winemaker of the Year” by *Food & Wine* magazine in its newly-released November issue.

“Winemaker of the Year,” which is selected by the magazine’s editors, is a top-honor for the world-renowned Pott who notes, “I’ve tasted so many great, older Napa wines, and I always wonder, Why aren’t we making these wines anymore?”



Pott’s commitment to creating unparalleled, age-worthy wines is evident in Blackbird’s portfolio of Proprietary Red Wines – Arriviste, Arise, Illustration, Paramour and Contrarian. The honorable title of “Winemaker of the Year” tails other positive accolades for both Pott and Blackbird Vineyards.

In early 2012, Pott was featured in *Wall Street Journal’s* “The Mouth Behind Some of Napa’s Best Wines.” Additionally, all of the 2009 vintages of Blackbird Vineyards’ wines have received 90+ points from *Stephen Tanzer’s International Wine Cellar* who comments on the 2009 Blackbird Illustration, “Blackbird, whose wines are made by the talented Aaron Pott, describes itself as ‘an artisanal producer of Pomerol-inspired wines’ and this beauty could be exhibit A.” Most recently, the 2009 Blackbird Paramour was chosen for *Robb Report’s* “From the Robb Cellar.”

“We are very excited that Aaron is getting the attention that he deserves,” notes Blackbird Founder Michael Polenske. “Aaron is at the top of his game, and his years of experience as a winemaker in Bordeaux gives him an incredible edge here in Napa. His impact on the brand is far beyond what goes into the bottle...”

Pott’s passion for winemaking began at an early age. His University of California Davis education and seemingly-natural winemaking abilities have landed him winemaking positions at some of the leading chateaux in Bordeaux including, Château Troplong Mondot, Premier Grand Cru Classé St. Emilion and Château La Tour Figeac Grand Cru Classé St. Emilion. Back in the states, Pott continued his career with Beringer as winemaker for the company’s international brands in France, Italy and South America before taking the role of Head Winemaker and General Manager of Quintessa Estate. In 2007, Pott formed “Pott Wines” and is dedicated to consulting for a limited quantity of notable producers as well as making wines of his own. Pott joined the Blackbird team September of 2007. This year marks Blackbird’s tenth harvest.

About Blackbird Vineyards

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 Aaron Pott to produce elegantly styled, appropriately balanced red wines that offer short- and long-term cellaring potential. Limited quantities are available through an allocated mailing list direct from the winery and in the finer restaurants and hotels around the world. Visit Blackbird and become a fan on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/blackbirdvineyards) or [Twitter](https://twitter.com/blackbirdvineyards).

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