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**Blackbird Vineyards Returns to Premiere Napa Valley to Showcase the 2013 Vintage**  
*Auction Exceeds Previous Records, Raising \$6 Million*

(NAPA VALLEY, CA; March 3, 2015)— On Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> the Napa Valley Vintners’ annual wine futures auction, Premiere Napa Valley, pulled in \$6 million in just over three hours of lively bidding on 225 one-of-a-kind, trade-only wine lots. This year’s event raised slightly more than last year’s record-breaking total of \$5.9 million, which doubled the previous record set in 2012 of \$3.1 million.

Blackbird Vineyards’ lot, a 2013 vintage “Premiere Napa Valley Cuvee” blend of 50% Merlot from Stagecoach and Shifflett Vineyards, 40% Cabernet Sauvignon from Ballard Vineyard and 10% Cabernet Franc from Hudson Vineyard ranked in the top percentage for five-case lots auctioned. The barrel lot garnered a winning bid of \$28,000 from a winning bidder based in the New York area of the U.S.A. At \$467 per bottle, the 2013 Blackbird Vineyards cuvée sold for over three times the amount of Blackbird’s highly rated Illustration, Paramour and Contrarian proprietary red wines.

Blackbird president Paul Leary stated, “In our 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of participation in the annual Premiere Napa Valley barrel auction, our winemaking team—led by Aaron Pott—continues to validate the demand for Napa wines that have an elegance and sensibility in their profile. This 2013 vintage wine will age gracefully for the next 20 years and will be a true addition to a wine collector’s cellar.”

The vintner events leading up to Saturday’s auction were considered “must attend” tasting opportunities for influential trade, such as retailers, restaurateurs, distributors, and media. Blackbird Vineyards kicked off Premiere week with an open house reception at Ma(i)sonry Napa Valley on Friday afternoon, featuring wines from Blackbird Vineyards, as well as fellow vintners – Coup de Foudre, Lail Vineyards, Pahlmeyer, Pedras Wine Company, Renteria Wines, TOR Kenward Family Wines and Tuck Beckstoffer Wines.

### **About Blackbird Vineyards**

Founded in 2003 by Michael Polenske, Blackbird Vineyards is an artisanal producer of Right Bank-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](#) or [Twitter](#).

### **About Premiere Napa Valley**

For 19 years, the region’s top winemakers have offered ultra-boutique wines to the trade, crafted in as few as five cases and never more than 20 cases, as individual bottlings for the brand known as [Premiere Napa Valley](#). These wines, created each only once, by 225 different wineries are offered as futures at auction only to the wine trade—individual restaurateurs and wine retailers—so they have the most unique, and some of the very best wines made from America’s leading appellation.

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