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PREMIERE NAPA VALLEY

Blackbird Vineyards Returns to Premiere Napa Valley to Showcase the 2016 Vintage
The Auction Raised \$4.1 Million to Support the Mission of the Napa Valley Vintners.

(NAPA VALLEY, CA; March 1, 2018 — On Saturday, February 24th the Napa Valley Vintners’ annual wine futures auction, Premiere Napa Valley, pulled in \$4.1 million in just over three hours of lively bidding on 217 one-of-a-kind, trade-only wine lots.

Blackbird Vineyards’ lot, a 2016 vintage “Premiere Napa Valley Cuvee” blend of 50% Cabernet Sauvignon from Ballard and Stagecoach vineyards, 40% Cabernet Franc from Stagecoach Vineyard, 8% Merlot from Hudson Vineyard and 2% Petit Verdot from Crocker & Starr, ranked in the top tier for ten-case lots auctioned. The barrel lot garnered a winning bid of \$22,000 from winning bidders, Total Wine & More, which is one of Blackbird’s key wholesale distribution partnerships based in Maryland.

Blackbird president Paul Leary commented, “With over 11 years straight of participation in the annual Premiere Napa Valley barrel auction, our winemaking team—led by Aaron Pot and Kyle Mizuno—crafted a singular wine that reflects the Blackbird wine profile of both structural density and elegance in an age-worthy bottling.”

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 celebrated Premiere week with an intimate lunch featuring Morimoto bento boxes at RiverHouse by Bespoke Collection on Friday afternoon, featuring current vintage and library wines from the Blackbird Vineyards portfolio.

About Blackbird Vineyards

Founded in 2003 by Michael Polenske, Blackbird Vineyards is an artisanal producer of right bank Bordeaux-inspired wines from the Napa Valley. Crafted by esteemed winemaker Aaron Pott, each wine in the portfolio is a true example of Blackbird’s ongoing commitment to quality and diversity of terroir by partnering with a selection of Napa Valley’s most prestigious vineyards. These include sites in high altitudes of Spring Mounting and Atlas Peak, the alluvial terrain of Saint Helena and the Oak Knoll district in Napa, and the cool climates of Carneros. Visit [Blackbird](#) and become a fan on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

About Premiere Napa Valley

For over 20 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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