

# BLACKBIRD VINEYARDS

## ILLUSTRATION

*Artisanal producer of Pomerol-inspired wines*

WINEMAKER: *Aaron Pott*

PRESIDENT: *Paul Leary*

FOUNDER: *Michael Polenske*

### 2011 ILLUSTRATION NAPA VALLEY PROPRIETARY RED WINE

The 2011 Illustration demonstrates elegant notes of cinnamon and black licorice, with opulent red fruit and iris aromas. The softly-structured mid-palate offers great density and abundant flavors of black cherry, tobacco and cedar. The finish is persistent in length with sophisticated tannins leading to a smooth mouth feel. Drinking well upon release, Illustration will age beautifully with time in the cellar. The cooler-than-normal 2011 Napa Valley grape-growing season concluded in an expedited harvest. The outcome was a vintage with flavors developed at lower brix, resulting in truly elegant wines with European-style texture and great complexity.

BLEND:	<i>75% Merlot - 15% Cabernet Franc - 10% Cabernet Sauvignon</i>
HARVEST:	<i>Fall, 2011</i>
RELEASE:	<i>Spring, 2014</i>
BARREL REGIME:	<i>21 months in French Oak barrels - 75% new, 25% seasoned</i>
PH:	<i>3.76</i>
TOTAL ACIDITY:	<i>0.57</i>
ALCOHOL:	<i>14.2%</i>
PRODUCTION:	<i>29 barrels</i>
OPTIMUM DRINKING:	<i>2014 - 2027</i>
PRICE:	<i>\$125.00 per 750ml bottle</i>

### VINEYARDS

Each wine in the portfolio is a true example of Blackbird's ongoing commitment to quality by partnering with a selection of Napa Valley's most prestigious vineyards.

**Blackbird Vineyard** - *Located in the Oak Knoll District, Blackbird's estate vineyard, with clay soils underlaid by gravel, is an ideal site for Merlot. The region's cool nights preserve acidity in the fruit, providing natural balance.*

**Hudson Vineyard** - *Perched on a rolling hillside in the cool climate of Carneros, the Hudson Vineyard is a high-quality fruit source for Merlot, Cabernet Franc, and Cabernet Sauvignon.*

**Stagecoach Vineyard** - *Atop the Vaca Mountains south of Pritchard Hill, the rocky, volcanic terroir of the Stagecoach Vineyard produces intense Merlot and Cabernet Franc.*

**Crocker & Starr Vineyard** - *The Crocker & Starr Vineyard's deep pocket of well-drained gravel creates aromatic Cabernet Franc with impressive structure and finesse.*



### ILLUSTRATION

Illustration represents the core – the heart – of Blackbird Vineyards. Every element of Blackbird's multi-faceted wine portfolio draws inspiration from this singular, Pomerol-inspired Merlot. It is an undiluted illustration of the passion, time and concentration invested in creating elegant, multi-layered wines. Illustration challenges the notion that Cabernet Sauvignon is the only age-worthy red wine crafted in Napa Valley.

**The heart is full of infinite possibilities...**

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