

BESPOKE COLLECTION

ARTISANAL BRANDS & EXPERIENCES



Founded in 2003, Blackbird Vineyards is an artisanal producer of Bordeaux influenced wines from 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.

Blackbird Vineyards Name:	“Merlot” is French patois for ‘Little Blackbird’
Proprietor:	Michael Polenske
President:	Paul L. Leary
Winemaker:	Aaron Pott
Vineyard Manger:	Renteria Vineyard Management
Design Consultant:	David Hughes
Premiere Vintage:	2003
Wines Produced:	Napa Valley Proprietary Red Wine
Appellation:	Napa Valley

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.



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Blackbird Vineyards' winemaking duo, Aaron Pott and Kyle Mizuno, are the artisans behind ÆRENA Wines. They feel that wine is a unique art in that it is ephemeral; once it is consumed, it is gone. In farming and winemaking, Aaron and Kyle strive to communicate a vineyard's sense of place by working the wine at the right time to expose the best characteristics of variety and site. Their winemaking philosophy is simple, "let the wines speak for themselves and screw it up." www.aerenawines.com

Chardonnay

The ÆRENA Wines Chardonnay is comprised of vineyards that span two appellations: Sonoma Mountain and Russian River Valley. The Sonoma Mountain vineyard is protected from the heat of the day, lending cool-climate qualities to the blend: minerality, acidity, and structure alongside citrus fruit and flowers. The Russian River Valley vineyard is everything that you expect, contributing exotic fruit, richness, and complexity.

Cabernet Sauvignon

The ÆRENA Wines Cabernet is farmed from vines in the Red Hills of California's North Coast. Due to the mountain viticulture, the elevation moderates temperature extremes and diurnal shifts, allowing for a long growing season that results in complex flavor development. The intensity of flavors is magnified by vine stress from well-drained, iron-rich vineyards littered with black obsidian, quartz crystal, and volcanic gravel.

Rosé

The ÆRENA Wines Rosé is farmed by The del Barba vineyard. The del Barba vineyard is in the town of Oakley, within the San Francisco Bay AVA, an area that encompasses some very historic California wine growing country. The climate is moderated by the cool evenings enjoyed by proximity to where the San Francisco bay meets the Sacramento River Delta. According to Aaron Pott, the del Barba vineyard allows him to "fulfill all of his Rhône and southern Italian fantasies at the same time."



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Recuerdo Wines offers enthusiasts the opportunity to experience premium wines that capture the best of Argentina's unique terroir, specifically within the high-altitude Uco Valley. Recuerdo means "memory" or "memento" in Spanish. As such, the Recuerdo winemaking team of Santiago Achával and Pablo Martorell passionately believe that each bottle of Recuerdo should not only represent Argentina's native terroir but also serve as a memory of each and every harvest. www.recuerdowines.com

Recuerdo Wines provides one-of-a-kind, exclusive wine experiences, both north and south of the Equator, through its partnership with Blackbird Vineyards in Napa Valley and The Vines of Mendoza in Argentina, two of the world's leading wine lifestyle companies.

Best of Two Valleys: Uco Valley and Napa Valley – The Vines of Mendoza's team of American wine enthusiast and entrepreneur Michael Evans and Pablo Gimenez-Riili work closely with Blackbird Vineyards' Michael Polenske and Paul Leary in Napa Valley to deliver these experiences in both valleys.

- The Vines of Mendoza offers Recuerdo Wine fans access to the Vines' luxury resort in the Recuerdo vineyard, as well as intimate Argentine wine experiences, including in-vineyard asado dinners.

High elevation Uco Valley, environmentally friendly vineyard – The Malbec grapes are grown at over 3,700 feet and 32°S latitude in the heart of the Uco Valley at The Vines of Mendoza. This prime grape-growing region enjoys over 300 days of sunshine a year, a pure irrigation source from the Andes Mountains, rocky organic soils, and a broad variance between day and nighttime temperatures. These conditions allow the winemaking team to produce incredibly concentrated and complex wines with amazing structure and balance. The Torrontes grapes are grown in similar conditions in Fatima Valley in La Rioja, an outstanding region for Torrontes grapes.

Winemaking & state-of-the-art winery – Recuerdo Wines's state-of-the-art winery is located in the middle of the The Vines of Mendoza's Uco Valley vineyard and boasts extensive microvinification capabilities and cutting-edge technology. Recuerdo's winemaking team is led by Pablo Martorell, formerly of Clos de los Siete and one of Mendoza's most famous up-and-coming winemakers; and Santiago Achával, who boasts four of the five highest-rated wines in Argentine history, as judged by Wine Spectator, and the highest-rated Argentine wine to date, according to Robert Parker.



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ÆRENA Galleries & Gardens are uniquely beautiful art and design venues featuring contemporary art and sculpture, as well as finely-edited collections of furnishings, objects and curiosities dating from the 18th century to the present. ÆRENA Galleries offers the work of over one hundred emerging to internationally renowned painters, visual artists, sculptors and artisans in captivating spaces and beautiful sculpture gardens in Yountville (6711 & 6795 Washington Street), St. Helena (1354 Main Street), and Healdsburg (115 Plaza Street). www.aerenagalleries.com

