

BLACKBIRD
VINEYARDS
CONTRARIAN

Artisanal producer of Pomerol-inspired wines

WINEMAKER: *Aaron Pott*

PRESIDENT: *Paul Leary*

FOUNDER: *Michael Polenske*

2011 CONTRARIAN NAPA VALLEY PROPRIETARY RED WINE 

The 2011 Contrarian opens with expressive notes of succulent black fruit and pepper. On the palate, flavors of blackberry and mocha complement silky layers of intricately structured, fine-grained tannins that hold great density and weight. The lush mid-palate leads to a supple, approachable and harmoniously-precise finish. This wine is gratifying now and will age gloriously 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>43% Cabernet Franc - 29% Cabernet Sauvignon - 28% Merlot</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>3.79</i>
TOTAL ACIDITY:	<i>0.58</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.*



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Blackbird Vineyards' Contrarian is crafted by passion and instinct. This textured blend of Merlot, Cabernet Franc and Cabernet Sauvignon possesses both an aromatic richness and subtle tannin profile. It exudes the Pomerol-inspired elegance Blackbird Vineyards' wines are known for, while displaying the regal posture that comes from superior Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon. A wine to indulge in now and for decades to come, Contrarian's uniquely supple structure flouts convention.

Vive les différences...

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