



Founded in 2003 by Michael Polenske, Blackbird Vineyards is an artisanal producer of Pomerol 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 consulting winemaker Sarah Gott and 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.

Blackbird Vineyards Name: “Merlot” is French patois for ‘Little Blackbird’
Proprietor: Michael Polenske
President: Paul L. Leary
Consulting Winemaker: Sarah Gott
Winemaker: Aaron Pott
Vineyard Manger: Renteria Vineyard Management
Design Consultant: David Hughes
Premiere Vintage: 2003
Wines Produced: Napa Valley Proprietary Red Wine
Appellation: Oak Knoll District
Vineyard Size: 10 Acres
Vines: 5717 Planted in 1997
Varietal Planted: Merlot
Exposure: Vineyard planted east to west
Topography: Valley Floor – completely flat
Clone: 3
Root stock: 110R
Blackbird Vineyards Soil: Haire-Coombs

Blackbird Vineyards Soil Comments:

Blackbird Vineyard is made up predominantly of the Haire type of soil. It holds proper soil moisture down deep and is available to the vines and allows Blackbird to be virtually dry-farmed. Haire soils are moderately well drained. The surface layer is brown and grayish brown loam or clay loam. The subsoil extends to a depth of 60 inches or more. It is pale brown and pale yellow clay and sandy clay. Coombs soils are well drained. The surface layer is brown and pale brown gravelly loam and clay loam. The subsoil is brown, light brown and pink clay loam. The substratum is very gravelly loamy fine sand.