BLACKBIRD VINEYARDS

2019 ILLUSTRATION

Accolades

The Merlot-based 2019 Illustration Proprietary Red is 81% Merlot, 15% Cabernet Franc and just 4% Cabernet Sauvignon. Sourced from the estate property in Oak Knoll but supplemented by purchased fruit from the Hudson and Stagecoach Vineyards, it's cedary, with mocha overtones to the cherry fruit. Full-bodied, plush, richly velvety and long on the finish, this is a truly remarkable Napa Valley Merlot, a rare thing indeed.

94 Points Wine Advocate

Aromas of currants and sandalwood with flowers and ink. Medium-bodied with fine, velvet-textured tannins and a fine finish. Creamy. Give this time to fully integrate and open. 81% merlot, 15% cabernet franc and 4% cabernet sauvignon. Try after 2024.

94 Points James Suckling

The 2019 Illustration, Blackbird's Merlot-based wine, is deep, fleshy and super-expressive. Juicy dark cherry, plum, chocolate, licorice and new leather are front and center. The 2019 possesses quite a bit of depth as well as energy. Give it a few years to soften.

94 Points Antonio Galloni of Vinous

The deep ruby/purple-hued 2019 Illustration Proprietary Red is mostly Merlot yet includes 15% Cabernet Franc and 4% Cabernet Sauvignon. Lots of varietal currants, cherries, chocolate, and spice notes define the boquet, and it hits the palate with medium to full-bodied richness as well as ripe, silky tannins, plemty of fruit, and a great finish. It's cerntainly an outstanding wine and will drink nicely for 10-15 years.

93 Points Jeb Dunnuck

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