# BLACKBIRD VINEYARDS

## ILLUSTRATION

WINEMAKER: *Aaron Pott*

## 2023 Illustration Proprietary Red Wine

The 2023 vintage in Napa Valley was shaped by a wet winter and a cool, extended growing season with mild temperatures and few heat spikes, allowing grapes to ripen slowly and evenly while retaining natural acidity. The resulting wines show exceptional purity and balance, with vibrant fruit, refined tannins, and a freshness that promises both immediate appeal and long-term aging potential.

Notes of black cherry, iris, plum, cranberry, roast duck, cedar, and raspberry. Huge attack with great richness in the mid palate balanced by lively acidity and wonderful layers of flavor. This may be my favorite Illustration in my 20 years of making this wine. - *Aaron Pott*

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| BLEND: | 55% Merlot, 25% Cabernet Franc, 20% Cabernet Sauvignon |
| HARVEST: | Mid-September to Late October 2023 |
| RELEASE: | Fall 2026 |
| BARREL REGIME: | 21 months in French Oak Barrels - 50% new |
| ALCOHOL: | 14.6% |

### VINEYARDS

**BLACKBIRD VINEYARD** - *The Blackbird vineyard is a unique clay heavy site over well drained alluvial gravel. The clay brings power to Merlot and the gravel allows the soils to drain well and ripen to perfection.*

**MCGAH VINEYARD** - *Located on the eastern benchlands of Rutherford just north of Oakville, McGah Vineyard is a historic 65-acre property that benefits from long afternoon sun, cool evening air, and gravelly red loam soils that provide superb drainage and low fertility conditions ideal for producing fruit of concentration and purity.*

**SHIFFLETT** - *A steep hillside vineyard in Yountville facing into the southeast. Great exposure in a cold region. Beautiful Cabernet Franc from old heritage clones creates wines of sculpted beauty and finesse.*

**THE BIRDS NEST** - *Our high-elevation, organically farmed estate vineyard on Hennessy Ridge near Pritchard Hill is shaped by thin rocky soils and cooling marine air that naturally limit yields and extend the growing season. Cabernet Sauvignon from this dramatic ridgeline shows intense dark fruit, firm mountain tannins, and lifted minerality that captures both the power and precision of Napa's mountain terroir.*

### ILLUSTRATION

Illustration represents the core of Blackbird Vineyards. Every element of its multi-faceted wine portfolio draws inspiration from this principally Merlot composition. Illustration challenges the notion that Cabernet Sauvignon is the only age-worthy red wine crafted in Napa Valley.

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