

2019 Blackbird Arise Napa Valley, California

Founded in 2003, Blackbird Vineyards is an artisanal producer of Bordeaux-inspired wines. Blackbird Vineyards fosters long-term partnerships with premium vineyard sources throughout Napa Valley, where growers are passionate about their approach to farming. These vineyards are hand-selected for their health, superiority, and exceptional fruit quality, allowing Winemaker Aaron Pott to produce elegantly styled, appropriately balanced red wines that offer short and long-term cellaring potential.

Aaron Pott has been the winemaker at Blackbird since the beginning, where the Right Bank Bordeaux inspiration resonates with long years making wines in St-Émilion and Pomerol. The 10-acre Blackbird Vineyard in Oak Knoll is at the heart of production, a unique vineyard in the area where the clay soil in which Merlot thrives is well drained by underlying gravel. Other vineyards from which fruit is sourced are Ballard Vineyard on Spring Mountain, Crocker & Starr in St. Helena, Star Vineyard in Rutherford, Stagecoach Vineyard on Atlas Peak, and Hudson Vineyard in Carneros.

This classic Napa blend is primarily comprised of Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, and Cabernet Franc. Its elegance and purity of flavor come from exceptional vineyards, minimal winemaking intervention, a deep understanding of the nuanced interplay of wine and oak, and countless hours of tasting. 55% Cabernet Franc, 18% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot, 4% Zinfandel.

www.blackbirdvineyards.com

"The Blackbird wines—based on an estate vineyard in Oak Knoll but supplemented by fruit purchased from such illustrious sites as the Hudson and Stagecoach Vineyards—are made under the guidance of Aaron Pott, who has quietly become one of Napa's leading consultants. Originally focused on the Merlot-based Illustration, the range has diversified to include an outstanding wine led by Cabernet Franc (Paramour) and another led by Cabernet Sauvignon (Contrarian). There's also Arise, a blend of other bits and pieces that represents a significant value in the context of sky-high Napa Valley prices." Wine Advocate

"The 2019 Arise Proprietary Red is a seductive, svelte blend of 55% Cabernet Franc, 18% Cabernet Sauvignon, 15% Merlot, 8% Petit Verdot, 4% Zinfandel. Full-bodied but nicely supple and polished, it delivers notes of blueberries, cherries, dark chocolate and mocha, then caps those off with a long, velvety finish. Maybe it could use a bit more muscle and concentration, but there's no denying its upfront appeal and elegance. In the context of Napa, it's even reasonably priced." Wine Advocate 92



\$49.99
Member discount on additional bottles: \$44.99

2021 Kurtatsch Glen Pinot Nero Riserva Sudtirol Alto Adige, Italy

Located in the foothills of the Italian Alps, Cantina Kurtatsch has produced wines guided by the unique terroir of Alto Adige since 1900. The 190-hectare property, named after the nearby town of Kurtatsch, is cooperatively owned by 190 families who share the goal of producing characterful wines of the highest quality using sustainable practices. As one of the oldest wine cooperatives in the region, invaluable knowledge of the vineyards and of every single grapevine is passed from one generation to the next. The smallholdings (1 hectare per member) make possible gentle cultivation by hand during the growing season and harvest. Cantina Kurtatsch crafts some of the best crus of the Alto Adige, taking advantage of wide-ranging soil diversity, large diurnal shifts, and the alpine-continental climate with Mediterranean influences.

Today, Kurtatsch is led by a young, dynamic, and down-to-earth team with President Andreas Kofler at the helm of the business and winemaker Erwin Carli leading the winemaking. This strong, family-oriented team continues to cultivate a special relationship with the vineyards and to capture the true spirit of the region through a range of powerful Mediterranean wines with unmistakable alpine freshness.

Pinot Noir is the only grape variety that is not grown in Kurtatsch. Pinot Noir needs excellent locations with low sun intensity, which it finds on the opposite side of the valley. The sites MAZON and GLEN are the best-known Pinot noir locations in Italy. The higher location of GLEN is characterized by significant swings in temperature between day and night.

The Riserva GLEN is fine and fresh in the nose, with hollyhock-like sweetness. On the palate, it is velvety and exquisite. Echoes of fresh raspberries and wild cherries give the discreet fruity sweetness a juicy and delicately spicy backbone. GLEN: The elegant one.

Notes from www.vineyardbrands.com



“The 2021 Pinot Nero Riserva Glen is rich on the nose, blending steeped plums and crushed cherries complicated by autumnal spices and lifting camphor hints. This is pure and open-knit, with fresh red and blue fruits flowing across a vibrant acidity stream. It finishes long and spicy with a tinge of sour citrus that puckers the cheeks as gently grippy tannins tug at the senses. The energy captured within the 2021 Glen is quite appealing.” **Antonio Galloni, Vinous 93**

“Spicy, red-fruited character here with notes of red licorice, walnut and hibiscus. Medium- to full-bodied, polished and crunchy with firm tannins and vivid acidity. Crunchy and fresh. Lingering, zesty finish.” **James Suckling 92**



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