

GOLD MEDAL WINE CLUB'S  
Platinum Series Selection



# Platinum Plus!

## Blackbird Vineyard 2012 Arise Napa Valley



Michael Polenske's interest in wine began long before he acquired Blackbird Vineyards in 2003. He grew up in a military family and spent a great deal of his youth living on the Travis Air Force Base near Napa Valley, and his interest developed after taking numerous family trips throughout California's wine country. He took several viticulture courses while studying finance at Chico State University, and his initial intention post-graduation was to work in investment management with wineries in Napa. Instead, he found himself drawn into the technology boom in Silicon Valley. After 20 years in his career, he decided to invest in some of his own longtime interests, specifically what he calls "the business of leisure." He now has several art and wine-related projects around the Napa area.

Michael found the future Blackbird Vineyard site while looking for a property in Napa with a pool. As an added bonus, the land also had a vineyard planted to Merlot, the grapes from which were already being sold off to various wineries and winemakers. He realized the potential of these vines and decided to produce his own wine. The Oak Knoll District AVA of Napa, where Blackbird is located, is distinctly similar in both climate and soil composition to Bordeaux, France's Pomerol district, which is famous for Merlot. The cool nights, morning fog, and unique mix of alluvial soil contribute to the vines' impressive quality of fruit.

Blackbird's inaugural release in 2003 of just 100 cases catapulted him to instant acclaim, receiving 95+ scores from several local wine retailers and publications; One astute reviewer raved that "it is with wines like this that we never question why we are in the business." Michael brought on Aaron Pott as a consulting winemaker and his guidance has contributed to the winery earning remarkable accolades with every release. Pott is the only American to ever have held a winemaking title at a Grand Cru winery in Bordeaux, and was the recipient of *Food and Wine Magazine's* **Winemaker of the Year** in 2012. In just over a decade, Blackbird has set an impressive precedent and standard for its future. There is no doubt that Blackbird will continue to soar with this dream team behind it. Cheers to their amazing wines and continued success.

### Accolades & Tasting Notes

**91 POINTS**

- *Connoisseurs' Guide*

**90 POINTS + CELLAR SELECTION**

- *Wine Enthusiast magazine*

The 2012 Arise is hand-tuned to express the luscious flavor profiles and lithe structure of the exceptional fruit. On the nose are hints of blackberry, black currant, cocoa powder, clove and forest floor with a robust palate. Flavors of strawberry and cherry are present with firm tannins and a long finish. This blend is comprised of 58% Merlot, 32% Cabernet Franc, and 10% Cabernet Sauvignon. Aged 21 months in French Oak. Enjoy now until 2024.

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