

BLACKBIRD 2013



pH: 3.36 **TA:** 6.3 g/L **Residual sugar:** 0 g/L **Alcohol by volume:** 13.2%

Harvest notes: A relatively warm and dry autumn saved an unusually rainy growing season, leading to good quality and ripeness in grape varieties used to make this wine. Low yields from our low-vigor estate vineyard, coupled with careful selection of fruit from other vineyards is the key to this classic cool-climate red. Grapes were harvested throughout October: Cabernet Franc grapes were sourced from Randolph O'Neill Vineyard (Ovid, Cayuga Lake) and Silver Thread Vineyard. Cabernet Sauvignon grapes hail from Silver Thread Vineyard. Merlot grapes are from Wagner Farms (Lodi, Seneca Lake).

Winemaker notes: Each variety was harvested, fermented and aged separately. Aging took place in old French and American oak barrels for 8 months; average barrel age 6 years. 73% Cabernet Franc, 16% Merlot, 11% Cabernet Sauvignon. Varietals were blended prior to bottling and the blended wine was bottled in June 2014.

Tasting notes: Aromas of fresh raspberry, cranberry, blueberry, spice and smoke with grippy tannins. A medium-bodied, elegant red that pairs beautifully with food. Drink now or cellar for 5-8 years.

Accolades: 90 points in *Wine Advocate*

Production: 442 CASES

Release date: May 2015

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**SILVER THREAD
VINEYARD**

SILVER THREAD is a 7-acre, sustainably farmed vineyard and ecologically-designed wine cellar on the east shore of Seneca Lake. The vineyard was established in 1982 and the winery in 1991. Ownership transferred from founder Richard Figiel to Paul and Shannon Brock in 2011. We aim to create expressive, age-worthy wines in harmony with nature.

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES used on our farm include cultivation, mulching and cover crops instead of herbicides, compost and natural soil amendments instead of chemical fertilizers, and naturally-derived spray materials.

RED WINE PROGRAM: Silver Thread makes two red wines—Blackbird (Bordeaux Blend) and Pinot Noir. Production in 2011 was 250 cases Blackbird and 150 cases Pinot Noir. Pinot Noir is 100% estate grown (18 year old vines) from a mixture of Dijon clones. Blackbird is partly estate grown and partly made from purchased Finger Lakes grapes. Older oak is used for aging both reds in order to emphasize elegant fruit and vineyard character.

OWNER-WINEMAKER PAUL BROCK has an M.S. in Viticulture and Enology from Cornell University and is the instructor of Viticulture and Wine Technology at Finger Lakes Community College. Previously, he made wine at Lamoreaux Landing Wine Cellars, Keuka Lake Vineyards and Ravines Wine Cellars in the Finger Lakes, and at Whitehaven Winery in New Zealand.

OWNER-GENERAL MANAGER Shannon Brock has degrees in Economics and Management from Cornell and University of Virginia. She also holds the prestigious Diploma in Wine & Spirits from the Wine & Spirits Education Trust (WSET) in London. She instructs WSET classes at the New York Wine & Culinary Center in Canandaigua, NY, and was formerly its wine director.