



Kara-Tara Pinot Noir 2020



For this Pinot Noir, I have combined grapes from three distinct cool-climate vineyards in the Western Cape. Western Cape is a designation not often used for fine wine but I feel that bringing diverse components together can increase complexity if done properly.

*Varietals: 100% Pinot Noir, mix of Dijon clones
Fruit source: Elgin, Overberg, Durbanville
Yields: 7 ton/hectare
Alcohol: 13%
Total Acid: 5.2
Residual sugar: 2.09
Age of vines: 16 years
Vineyard elevation: 255-305m*

This wine has the classic strawberry and cherry fruit you'd expect from Pinot Noir with a touch of peppery spice. The weather was moderate during the harvest and produced grapes of low sugar levels and good natural acidity. The Overberg vineyards bring a classic strawberry fruit profile, while the vineyards in Elgin add structure. The Durbanville vineyards give an alluring perfume. All grapes were hand-picked into small lug-boxes; half of the grapes were destemmed and given hand punch-downs and the other half in closed tanks done with pump-overs. About 20% of the wine was whole-bunch fermented. Barrel matured for 14 months in French oak, primarily 2nd, 3rd and 4th-fill and about 10% new oak.

"I work with grape growers in various cool-climate regions because this allows me to create a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. Each vineyard is unique. I am looking for grapes that bring freshness and elegance to the final wine."

Rüdger is a graduate in oenology from Stellenbosch University. Upon graduation, he was selected for the prestigious Cape Winemakers' Guild Protege program where he did apprenticeships in several top Cape cellars, including Nitida and Kanonkop, and a harvest in Burgundy which inspired his passion for Chardonnay and Pinot Noir. Rüdger is currently the winemaker of Stark-Condé Wines in Stellenbosch. Rüdger was born and raised in George on the Eastern slopes of the Cape, where the Karatara river is located. Rüdger was the 2018 Diner's Club Young Winemaker of the Year.

*"Burgundians, beware!"
– Jancis Robinson MW, UK wine writer*