

## Profile

### **Eikendal Winemaker Nico Grobler**

Born and raised in Gauteng, Eikendal winemaker Nico Grobler soon realised his destiny when his family relocated to Stellenbosch in 1997 and he first laid eyes on the verdant Cape Winelands.

After matriculating at Stellenbosch High School, he spurred on his dream of becoming a winemaker by graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture (BSc Agric) specialising in Viticulture and Oenology from the University of Stellenbosch. During his studies Nico cut his winemaking teeth at Eikendal wine farm where he completed his harvest practical and soon became a regular hand at this renowned cellar on the foothills of the Helderberg.



Nico was promoted to Eikendal winemaker in October 2009 and continues to optimise the favourable terroir fanned by cooling ocean breezes and ideal soil compositions, following a 'wine is made in the vineyards' mantra.

"A combination of destiny and good judgment brought me to the wine business and ultimately to Eikendal. For me winemaking is not a job, but simply a passion put into practice," says Nico.

“I’m privileged to be able to do what I’m passionate about. To be able to wake up to the sight of Table Mountain in the distance, framed by the Helderberg in the background and lush vineyards at your doorstep. It certainly beats a good day at any office. For me the secret lies in happiness when it comes to crafting memorable wines,” he adds.

A talented winemaker in his own right, Nico has a clear idea about the style of wine that he likes to produce and believes that winemaking is all about balance, resulting in refined wines of flavour and finesse.

Nico is married to Christelle, an economist at the University of Stellenbosch and when not looking after his precious gems in the cellar, he loves relaxing with a good bottle of Burgundy Pinot Noir, enjoyed with a fresh garden salad or gourmet cheeses.

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