

46^{of} 100
Kiara Scott
Farmer



Here to be Distinctive

Rewriting History with a Distinctive Voice: Shaping the story of South African wine, through heritage and ambition.

Kiara became South Africa's youngest female winemaker after taking the reins of a young estate outside Paarl with a reputation for its Chenin Blanc and innovative blends.

WineLand magazine would go on to name her one of the country's most promising young wine ambassadors in its 30 under 30 list. In 2024 she landed one of the country's most prestigious awards, Winemaker of the Year. Kiara shattered the glass ceiling in an industry historically defined by men, by becoming the first woman of colour to be recognised with the accolade, and only the second woman in its 44-year-old history.

Today, as Cellarmaster at Hazendal Wine Estate, Kiara brings technical precision, creative

vision and a deep commitment for terroir-driven winemaking to the famed Stellenbosch winery. Her journey into winemaking was one which began with a fascination in the way science, creativity and storytelling can blend together inside a bottle. Born and raised in the Cape Flats, she would go on to graduate in Viticulture and Oenology from the Elsenburg Agricultural Training Institute.

Selected for the prestigious Cape Winemakers Guild Protégé Programme would prove pivotal. During the three-year programme, Kiara would sponge up valuable experience working under respected South African winemakers, broadening her knowledge through experience with international vintages overseas.

At its heart, her belief is that great wines begin in the vineyard. Her cellar philosophy is minimalist with an emphasis on understanding the vine, a sense of place and allowing the character of each site and vintage to shine through. It is an approach which puts quality before quantity and takes a long-term view on building enduring, site-specific wines.

This philosophy is powerfully translated into a broader vision for Hazendal's wines. With a focus on the distinctive soil of the locale, Kiara is helping to shape a new identity for the wine estate built on minimal intervention, precision and a burgeoning emphasise on biodiversity and regenerative viticulture.

Her heritage remains a powerful source of inspiration, motivating her to honour the resilience and creativity of the community she comes from. In turn, Kiara is forging her own as a winemaker, connecting tradition and place while helping to shape a more inclusive, forward-looking future for South African wine.

Kiara's story is not simply of rising through the ranks of an historic industry from which her ancestors were excluded, it is a story of harnessing her heritage and talent to help write a new chapter in South Africa's wine-making story.

Your
story
matters

