

# Jordan<sup>®</sup>

RONALD DU PREEZ  
Assistant Winemaker

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Upon graduation from University of Stellenbosch in South Africa in 2000, Ronald Du Preez moved to California in August to complete a three-month harvest internship at Jordan. He quickly became an integral part of the winemaking team and accepted a full-time position. Promoted to assistant winemaker in 2003, he now works alongside Winemaker Rob Davis and Assistant Winemaker Maggie Kruse to guide Jordan wines from vine to bottle.

A native of South Africa, Du Preez was born into a family of engineers in 1977. His father served as a soil scientist at Elsenburg College of Agriculture in Stellenbosch, while his mother was a town planner. Wine was always an integral part of the Du Preez family's dining experiences, which shaped his decision to study the science and artistry of winemaking.

During Du Preez's senior year of high school, his fate was sealed over an intimate dinner at a winemaker's house, where he met Winemaker Etienne LeRiche, whom he credits as shaping his decision to enter the Viticulture and Enology program at University of Stellenbosch.

When Du Preez left South Africa at age 23, he planned to gain valuable experience under respected Jordan Winemaker Rob Davis and then return home to earn a master's in enology. "Working alongside Rob has been like getting a real-world master's degree. His open mindedness in his approach to winemaking, constant creativity and endless energy continue to inspire me."

As assistant winemaker, Du Preez's responsibilities span from the vineyards to the cellar. He oversees our estate viticulture team, working closely with Viticulturist Brent Young and Vineyard Manager Dana Grande so our precision farming techniques and sustainable practices consistently yield high-quality, concentrated grapes. Du Preez reviews the ongoing estate soil-mapping study findings with Young to determine necessary changes in farming practices. Spending most days in the vineyard, Du Preez helps Young formulate new viticulture techniques to further improve quality. He also assists Grande on budgetary and organizational aspects of estate vineyard management.

Working with Davis and Kruse, Du Preez provides sensory assessment of wines in tank and barrel throughout evolution, assists with blending decisions and evaluates the performance of our entire cooperage program.