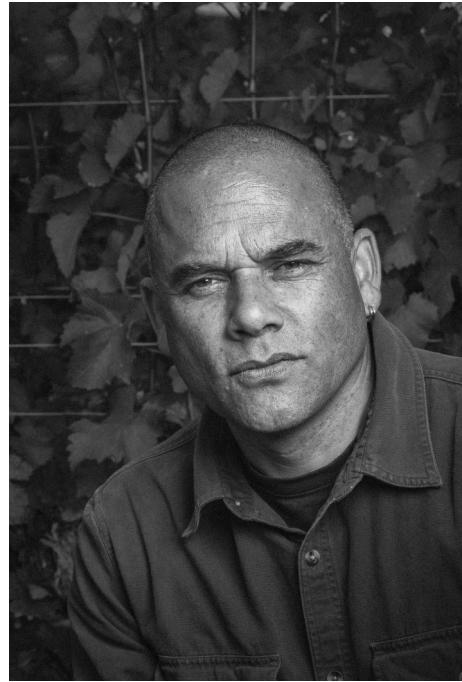




Saving Grace



Ben Roiiri *Assistant Vineyard Manager*

Ben has been Jean-Luc's right hand man since 2000 - to say they know each other well is a bit of an understatement. With a twinkle in his eye and face that exudes pure sincerity, Ben claims the reason he turns up every day is 'because of that guy right there,' pointing to Jean-Luc and 'the mission and passion we share to be part of a team that produces quality grapes'.

Originally hailing from Marlborough, Ben has found his feet in North Canterbury, calling the Waipara Valley home for the last 20 odd years. He loves it, and reckons it's one of the most challenging, but satisfying, places to grow grapes in New Zealand.

To that end, the Nor' west wind, both friend and foe, comes to mind. It is a key environmental tool that aids with disease prevention, but when raging for days on end can test the mettle of any person. A keen diver, who loves gathering local kaimoana (seafood) and a proud family man, Ben appreciates the sense of family that prevails amongst the Waipara Hills team. It's that notion of family, of connection, that puts a smile on Ben's face as he drives up to The Home Block vineyard every morning.

'It's the diversity, the land and especially the people, that make our region genuinely beautiful.' A key member of a very dedicated team who between them have a combined total of over 100 years of service to Waipara Hills, Ben contributes almost 20 of that. Ben's loyalty, work ethic and natural way with people is a big part of what makes this team so very special.