

► Wine Stories

by Karen Hart | October 21, 2021

Zak Miller **Sparkling Winemaker** **Domaine Carneros**

Sleep isn't something winemakers get a lot of during harvest, and I distinctly remember falling asleep while performing a pumpover late one night, which could have been disastrous if I hadn't woken up when I did. We were pumping wine from the bottom of the tank over to the top, in order to wet down the cap of grapes that rises to the surface when making red wine. It's a little monotonous, and I was really tired, and I must have fallen asleep while I was holding the hose at the top of the tank. Pumpovers are performed with a fire hose, and the wine is coming out at a pretty high volume, so it could have been a really messy and expensive accident. Thank goodness the French intern at the bottom of the tank yelled my name a few times. I regained my bearings and was left to wonder how long I was out, and how the hose miraculously stayed in the tank!

