## Texas Spirits by Kiepersol...THE WATER STORY

In late 1994, Pierre de Wet set his sights on the farm that would become the legendary Kiepersol vineyard and winery just south of Tyler, Texas. Development of the original 73 acres began with a toss of his cowboy hat to challenge what the earth would bring forth and decide on a location for a water well. With the subsequent lighting of his Lucky Strike cigarette, the first drilling at Kiepersol began. Squinting into the Texas summer sun, the future of a rolling vineyard flanked by the tall oaks and pines of East Texas came into view just as the drilling rig broke ground.

Three hundred feet below the surface lay an ancient river with uniquely low iron and mineral content within the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer. For over ten years, this original well gave life to the growth of the vineyard and quenched the thirst of visitors to the winery. Sometimes fate intervenes in our planning and sometimes it's a more local authority. A health department visit prescribed that the private water should not be shared with the public. Bent on proving the worthiness of the water, Pierre set out to scientifically test the Kiepersol well output against municipal water standards. Indeed it was special water...10-100 times lower in hardness and iron and maintaining a high alkaline pH.

Upon this discovery, the local city chimed in and drilled a hundred feet south of the Kiepersol 'lucky strike'. Dead Sea quality salt water resulted. Intrigued by the divergent results, Pierre himself drilled a hundred feet to the west of the original well. Water colored by East Texas iron ore was all that came forth. This curious puzzle spurred further geologic consultation changing the original notion that the ancient water came from layers pushed up by the Bullard Salt Dome to discover that the 'lucky strike' had essentially a one in a million chance to tap the timeworn, winding underground river of the Carrizo-Wilcox formation. The journey of this water carved the backbone of all the spirits produced at Kiepersol and can be tasted on-site today.

Created in 2014, Dirk's Texas Vodka tied this river of purity into its soul making it a clear-cut vodka of distinction that is truly one in a million. In 2015 the distillery expanded to include aged spirits...Jimmy's Texas Straight Bourbon and Pierre's Texas Rum.





