

Pegasus Bay

The Pegasus Bay Prima Donna Pinot Noir is a prestigious, reserve-level wine from North Canterbury's Waipara Valley , known for its power, finesse, and complex flavors. Crafted by the Donaldson family , this wine showcases the best barrels from exceptional vintages, offering a rich and concentrated Pinot Noir with great aging potential.

Prima Donna Pinot Noir 2019

Waipara, New Zealand



Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

Region and Vineyards

The **Prima Donna Pinot Noir** is sourced from Pegasus Bay's estate vineyard located in the **Waipara Valley** of **North Canterbury**. The vineyard is planted on **north-facing terraces**, benefiting from a unique **mesoclimate** created by the protection of the **Teviotdale Range**, which shields it from the Pacific's easterly breezes. The vines, over **30 years old** and mostly planted on their own roots, grow in the **Glasnevin Gravels**, a mix of **greywacke stones, silt, and loam** washed down from the mountains over millennia. The low fertility of these soils naturally reduces vine vigor, producing small yields of highly concentrated fruit.

The **cool nights** in the Waipara Valley extend the ripening period, preserving the grapes' natural acidity and allowing them to develop rich, complex flavors. In 2019, the growing season experienced a smaller crop due to weather challenges during flowering, but favorable summer and autumn conditions allowed for excellent ripening.

Winemaking

The **Prima Donna** is made using traditional **Burgundian winemaking methods**. The fruit is carefully selected from the estate's oldest and finest vines, with small berries and loose bunches contributing to the wine's concentration. Approximately **40% of the grapes** were placed whole into the fermentation vats, while the remainder was **destemmed** but kept as whole berries, maintaining structure and freshness.

The must was kept cool for several days to extract soft tannins before fermenting naturally with indigenous yeasts. Gentle plunging of the skins occurred twice daily during fermentation, and after completion, the wine was left to macerate for an additional week to extract deeper tannins and structure. The wine was then pressed off and transferred to **French oak barriques** (40% new), where it matured for **14 months**. A natural malolactic fermentation occurred during the summer following harvest. The final wine was blended from the best barrels, selected for complexity and balance.

PEGASUS BAY
FINE NORTH CANTERBURY WINE

Prima Donna Pinot Noir 2019

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby hue.
- **Aroma**: A captivating blend of **spiced plum**, **red currant**, and **dark cherry**, with savory notes of **earth**, **leather**, **cinnamon**, and **mushroom**, along with a hint of **crushed thyme**.
- **Palate**: Concentrated core of ripe fruit, with fine-grained tannins delivering a luxurious mouthfeel. The wine is rich and powerful, yet shows precision and finesse, with well-integrated acidity providing balance and poise.
- **Finish**: Long, harmonious, and elegant, with excellent depth and a lingering, refined finish.

Did You Know?

The **Pegasus Bay Prima Donna** is only produced in exceptional years and represents the top selection of barrels from the estate. The wine is made from some of the oldest ungrafted vines in New Zealand, which contribute to the wine's intense concentration and character.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roast lamb with rosemary and garlic**: The wine's complex savory notes and ripe fruit balance the richness of roasted lamb and the herbaceousness of rosemary.
- **Duck confit with cherry sauce**: The dark cherry and earthy flavors of the wine complement the rich texture and flavors of duck confit.
- **Mushroom risotto**: The wine's mushroom and earthy notes harmonize beautifully with the umami flavors of a creamy mushroom risotto.
- **Aged cheddar or Gruyère**: The concentrated fruit and fine tannins of the wine pair well with the nutty, savory characteristics of aged cheeses.

96 James Halliday

James Halliday (JH) : 96 Points (2019)

... medium body with integrated tannins and a fine and polished finish. Racy and complex. Classy ....

96 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 96 Points (2019)

... Medium- to full-bodied with silky, fruit-soaked tannins. A bit of modern woody spice add texture and depth to the bevy of red fruit and berries on the palate. Elegant and lingering. Delicious and will age wonderfully.