

Merlot Cabernet

2020

93 POINTS

James Suckling | [jamessuckling.com](https://www.jamessuckling.com)

March 2023

The red fruit with fresh herbs such as bay leaf and basil make this wine really interesting, fresh and thoughtful. Medium-bodied with fine tannins and a fresh finish. Delicious now.

91 POINTS

Cameron Douglas MS | [camdouglasms.com](https://www.camdouglasms.com)

April 2023

This wine is ready to drink upon purchase with aromas and flavours of dark plums and blackberry fruits, there's a layer of baking spice and mild toasty wood qualities with vanilla and toasted oatmeal. The core of fruit with acidity and fine tannins are at the core of the wine, it is balanced and well made (as always) with best drinking from today through 2025.

4 STARS

Michael Cooper | The Listener Magazine

April 2023

Full-bodied and fleshy, with a strong surge of blackcurrant, plum and spice flavours, ripe and smooth, this barrel-aged red offers fine value.

93 POINTS

Sam Kim | [wineorbit.co.nz](https://www.wineorbit.co.nz)

April 2023

Gorgeously ripe and richly expressed, the wine shows blackcurrant, spiced cherry, cured meat, thyme and almond characters. The palate displays excellent weight and plump mouthfeel, well supported by silky texture and chalky tannins. Flavoursome and bold with a lengthy robust finish.

18.5-/20 POINTS

Candice Chow | Raymond Chan Wine Reviews

April 2023

Deep, full, ruby-red, slightly lighter on the rim. The nose is gentle, with cassis, strawberry and plum aromas interwoven with cedar and spice. Full bodied, aromas of cassis and strawberry are playful upfront, unfolding spiced plum, nutmeg and cedar. The mouthfeel is textured and structured by ripe tannins, harmonising the plush fruit. Acidity is bright with good energy, lengthens to a sustained, elegant finish. This Merlot Cabernet is well-balanced with complexity and structure, will benefit from 2-3 years of bottle age.

95 POINTS

Decanter Magazine

August 2023

While the Donaldson family's Pegasus Bay wines use only estate grapes, its more affordable and approachable sister label Main Divide (a local name for the South Island's Southern Alps) incorporates purchased fruit with grapes from its Te Hau vineyard in the Waipara valley. This blend is about 50% Merlot, 40% cabernet Sauvignon and 10% Malbec, fermented and aged for 18 months in oak, 10% new. Pure New Zealand aromas, with that intensity of pure fruit and hints of leafiness. Silky palate with sour cherry, redcurrant and ripe plum. The oak doesn't dominate. Mature on the nose, with savoury tobacco and cedar notes alongside forest floor and cherry. The palate is silky and plush, still with ample acidity. Spiced plum notes, a lovely brightness and acidity, with cherry and dried mushroom notes. Evolves well on the glass.

92 POINTS & 4 STARS

Bob Campbell MW | The Real Review

April 2023

Rich, weighty and full-flavoured red with dark-fleshed plum, dark berry, chocolate/mocha, the ripe flavours suggest a favourable vintage. Gutsy wine with a relatively smooth texture. Great value at this price.