

Bel Canto Dry Riesling

2020

93 POINTS

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

October 2021

Beautiful riesling, offering dried apples, peaches and lemons with hints of wax, following through to a full body with layers of fruit and a light salted-caramel edge to the finish. Hints of botrytis spice. Lightly sweet mouth feel.

93 POINTS

Bob Campbell MW | The Real Review

September 2021

Picked late with a good portion of botrytis and fermented to dryness. The result is a ripe, complex riesling with ginger, cinnamon, anise, mandarin zest and bush honey flavours.

19/20 POINTS

Candice Chow | Raymond Chan Wine Reviews

October 2021

Bright, pale yellow with a gold hue and some depth, even colour throughout. The nose is full and complex, filled the glass with aromas of lilies, beeswax, honey, unfolding mandarin, grapefruit zest, melon, along with ginger spice. Full-bodied, dry to taste, intense aromas packed on the palate. Mandarin, lemon, grapefruit zest melded with plush melon, unfolding beeswax, honey, white lilies and a spicy layer of ginger dusting. The fruit is rich and concentrated, enriched by the complexing characters of botrytised grape, showing profound nuances of beeswax, honey and white lilies. The ginger spice layer has clarity, elevated by integrated, mouthwatering acidity. A slightly unctuous mouthfeel retains complex flavours and contributes to an opulent appeal. This complex flavour bomb made from Riesling with a portion of botrytis infected grapes shows a sophisticated range of flavours with depth and intensity

19/20 POINTS

Joelle Thomson | Drinksbiz

November 2021

I've always thought of Pegasus Bay's dry Riesling as a concentrated version of orange zest on speed, thanks to its incredible depth of flavour and impressively lingering finish, which lures you in for another sip or three. This new 2020 release is a little drier than in recent years, but the wine is consistently a stellar Riesling with purity, complexity, delicacy and power. It's a wine for the long haul, but like all Bel Cantos, it's a stunner right now too.

OUTSTANDING

Mark Henderson | Otago Daily Times, NZ

October 2021

Beguiling and powerful nose, matchstick, musk, dry honey, orange zest. Weight and depth to this, with a touch of spritz. The palate builds on the nose, adding orange and apricot kernel, while a touch of corruption adds interest and intrigue. A floral, sweetly fruited aspect runs through this, delightful texture too. Fascinatingly complex and long. Serious stuff.

96 POINTS & 5 STARS

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

December 2021

Impressively complex and engaging with golden apple, toasted spice, orange peel and potpourri aromas, it's powerful yet graceful with excellent weight and persistency. Richly textured and mouthfilling, it's brilliantly structured by firm acidity, finishing superbly long and flavoursome.

95 POINTS

Cameron Douglas MS | camdouglasms.com

October 2021

Distinctive, floral, aromatic and classic with aromas of lime-flower and blossoms, honeysuckle and a botrytis tickle. A silky texture as the wine touches the palate with immediately contrasting acidity then flavours of lime and lemon, apple and honeysuckle. The botrytis accentuates concentration and honeyed fruit flavours carried by acidity and youthful vigor. A delicious wine, drinkable today and in ten years or more.

5 STARS

Yvonne Lorkin | yvonnелorkin.com

October 2021

Grown on the Glasnevin gravels in the lee of the Teviotdale Range, Pegasus Bay's riesling vines are 30+ yrs old now and each year they strap in to help the Donaldson family create one of New Zealand's most age-worthy wines. Named after matriarch Christine Donaldson and her superlative singing skills, this wine erupts with orange zest, honeysuckle, layers of lime and quartz minerality resulting in a dry, lipsmacking finish.

96 POINTS

Stephen Bennett MW | New Zealand Wine Rater

June 2022

A huge, distinctive, aromatically prodigious, wine that leaps from the glass with aromas of orange blossom, marmalade, apricot, ginger and Manuka honey. The palate is in juxtaposition to the bouquet, where one might expect a lush, soft wine it is in fact, dry, serious and full-flavoured with powerful, challenging phenolics that push the boundaries. This is an engaging, expressive wine that stands out from the crowd.

19.5/20 POINTS

Joelle Thomson | Drinksbiz

October 2022

Pegasus Bay's winemaking family, the Donaldsons, have already reserved the word "maestro" for one of their great red wines (which more than lives up to the moniker) but if only it could also be used for Bel Canto – the greatest Riesling aromatic wine they make each year. This is one of the top wines in New Zealand with its exquisite balance of intense orange and mandarin and beautiful structured acidity adding succulence to the enormous concentration of flavour.

NEW ZEALAND TOP 50 WINES

The Wine Merchant magazine | UK

January 2023

Ivan Donaldson planted the first Canterbury vineyard in 1976 before going on to start Pegasus Bay with his wife Christine a decade afterwards. Thirty-seven years later the family business is still at the top of the New Zealand wine tree, with this Riesling, sourced from a single vineyard in Waipara, one of the best in the country. "Rich, mineral, slight petillance, dried fruits, apricots, honey: a complex, full rich style – a food wine with a touch of marmalade and a long, long finish," said the judges.

94 POINTS

Anne Krebiehl MW | www.decanter.com

June 2023

The top dry Riesling of the Donaldson family, made in a style that is meant to emulate a Smaragd Riesling from Austria's Wachau, with its proportion of botrytised grapes fermented to dryness. An immediate flinty note pops up, its smokiness leaching into molten candle wax and bright, ripe citrus: grapefruit lends tanginess while tangerine adds brighter notes. With more air, hints of ripe quince come through. The dry palate takes all these elements but adds a pleasantly bitter, textured, pithy edge reminiscent of apple pip and peach skin. The concentration is immense; there is fluidity, waxy citrus richness and flow, and the finish is dry with a lasting sense of that lovely pithiness. Unusually, 10% of the 2020 vintage was matured in 500-litre used puncheons.