

Chardonnay

2019

PEGASUS BAY
FINE WAIPARA WINE



94 POINTS

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

October 2021

Lots of flint and stone aromas with lemons and green apples. Medium-bodied with a tight and linear palate and a long, flavourful finish. Very intense.

18.5/20 POINTS

Candice Chan | Raymond Chan Wine Reviews

April 2022

Bright, pale straw-yellow with depth, even colour throughout. The nose is full and distinctive, aromas of struck-match, roasted hazelnut, brown butter leading, underlined stonefruit and apple. Full-bodied, creamy palate carries peaches, nectarines and grapefruit with a taut core, unfolding roasted chestnut, smoky barrel, brown butter and flint. The fruit formed a bright core, supported by concentration and excellent acidity. Smoky barrel details added deep layers and complexity. This rich, multi-layered Chardonnay shows power and abundance of vivid fruit across a lengthy, sustained finish. Match with roasted turkey with chestnut stuffing and nut loaf over the next 8+ years. Handpicked, foot-stomped, the non-clarified juice fermented in large French oak barrels, 70% old barrels, wild fermented to 13% alc, aged in puncheons on lees for 12 months, underwent MLF.

90 POINTS

Rebecca Gibb MW | Vinous

January 2022

The idiosyncratic, fragrant 2019 Chardonnay is all lime and jasmine with a generous splash of ginger, flint and oak derived nuttiness. A midweight and focused expression with plenty of concentration and acid-driven tang. It ticks the texture, intensity and length boxes, but it's a stylized interpretation that's not quite what I expect when I buy a bottle of Chardonnay. But then, this is Pegasus Bay.

19/20 POINTS

Joelle Thomson | Drinksbiz

May 2022

This is one of the South Island's most powerful, full-bodied, dry and rewardingly complex Chardonnays with its flavours of ripe citrus, honeydew, melon and peach. Flinty notes add complexity, which comes from both cool climate high acidity and lees contact from ageing in the barrel. The flavours are elegant and focused with a lingering finish.

95 POINTS

Bob Campbell MW | The Real Review

May 2022

Poor flowering followed by near-perfect weather resulted in a small crop of intensely flavoured grapes in perfect condition. From ungrafted 30-year-old-plus vines and a very favourable vintage, it's a smooth textured chardonnay with white peach, lemon curd, grapefruit and spicy oak flavours. Appealing purity and power. A sophisticated and complex wine.

EXCELLENT

Mark Henderson | Otago Daily Times NZ

April 2022

Gunflint, bonfire embers, preserved lemon, moving to tropical fruits, baking spices & warm bread. Incredible shaft of acidity running through this giving drive and vividness. There's a sense of fineness and reserve to this yet no mistaking the underlying power. Great structure with flecks of grapefruit on the long, beguiling close.

95 POINTS

Sam Kim | wineorbit.co.nz

March 2022

Superbly complex and inviting with ripe stone fruit, grapefruit, gun smoke and roasted hazelnut aromas, it's powerful and richly expressed on the palate offering outstanding depth and textured mouthfeel. Great presence with a prolonged gratifying finish.

5 STARS

Michael Cooper | www.michaelcooperwines.com

March 2022

Strapping yet delicate, richly flavoured yet subtle, this sophisticated North Canterbury wine is one of the country's best Chardonnays grown south of Marlborough. Muscular and taut, it typically offers a seamless array of fresh, crisp, citrusy, biscuity, complex flavours and great concentration and length. Estate-grown at Waipara, it is based on ungrafted, Mendoza-clone vines (over 30 years old), hand-picked and given lengthy oak aging (the 2019 vintage was fermented and leesaged for a year in French oak puncheons, 30 per cent new). The 2019 vintage is bright, light yellow/green, with a very fragrant, complex bouquet. Mouthfilling, it is concentrated, with vibrant, peachy, mealy flavours, oak complexity, fresh acidity and the structure to mature well. Full of personality.

95 POINTS

Cameron Douglas MS | camdouglasms.com

March 2022

There's no mistaking the power and intensity of this wine, before I even begin to take in the aromas - the scents of oak spice, lees and toasted yellowstone fruit invade the senses. Roasted cashew nut and baking spices, peach and nectarine, roasted apple and grapefruit peel. There's also a baked custard and hard clay earthy quality. Bold and proud bouquet overall. Full-bodied, oaky and fruity with flavours that mirror the bouquet from stone fruits to citrus, barrel to earth. Youthful with some fruit and wood tannins, a decent acid line and persistent lengthy finish.

5 STARS

Yvonne Lorkin | www.yvonnelorkin.com

July 2022

Who needs the Commonwealth Games when you've already got a glass full of gold right here? An absolute Southern icon chardonnay, this wine roars with smoked apricot and juicy nectarine niceness while the palate is generously layered with stonefruit and grapefruit intensity. It's beautifully balanced, and boasts slightly charred oak and waves of gumtingling textures that last and last. It's outstanding. Simple as that.