

Prima Donna Pinot Noir

2016

PEGASUS BAY
FINE WAIPARA WINE



97 POINTS & 5 STARS

Sam Kim | wineorbit.co.nz

October 2020

Immensely complex and gratifying, the wine's hows perfumed aromas of dark cherry, warm spice and earthy mushroom on the nose with nuances of game, vanilla and cedar. It's impressively concentrated and persistent on the palate, displaying sumptuous mouthfeel and plush texture, while remaining classically structured and refined.

94 POINTS

Steve Leszczynski | Qwine | qwinereviews.com

February 2020

Take a bow. An excellent Pinot Noir from New Zealand's Waipara region. A selection of the best barrels make it into this wine - Pegasus Bay's flagship Pinot. It's all things red: pomegranate, red cherries, ripe strawberries and raspberries. Dripping in elegance, the fruit just slides through the mouth with absolute ease where it lands on the mid-palate and just sticks. Quite generous in its offering yet supple and silky smooth on what seems a never ending finish. One to savour.

19/20 POINTS

Joelle Thomson | joellethomson.com

April 2020

Prima Donna is the cheeky name for the top tier Pinot Noir, which is made only in years when quality stands head and shoulders above other wines. It's not a reserve wine, as such, but rather a blend of the best barrels, so it's a subjective call made by the winemaking team. That said, quality and style tend to be extremely consistent; earthy flavours combined with freshness, power and elegance.

Michael Cooper | michaelcooper.co.nz

December 2019

For its top Waipara red, Pegasus Bay wants 'a heavenly voice, a shapely body and a velvety nose'. Based on the oldest vines, it is matured for 15 to 20 months in French oak barriques. The deeply coloured 2016 vintage is mouthfilling and sweet-fruited, with vibrant cherry, plum and spice flavours, concentrated, savoury and supple, that build to a powerful finish.

5 STARS & 95 POINTS

Bob Campbell MW | bobcampbell.nz

April 2020

Flagship pinot noir in a typically rich and generous style made using 30% wholebunches during fermentation. Dense, silken textured wine, with a mellow savouriness and flavours suggesting ripe plum, vanilla, chocolate, coffee, spice and anise. A complex and appealing red.

95 POINTS

Cameron Douglas MS | camdouglas.com

March 2020

Immediately varietal with plenty of primary red fruit aromas, medium to dark spices of toasty French barrel, brown spices and a sandy, chalky soil impression. Youthful, complex, layered. On the palate - dry, savoury, fruity and complex. Flavours

18/20 POINTS

Stephen Wong MW | Wine Sentience, NZ

June 2020

Instantly, this presents a higher-toned, more refined and prettier red fruit on the nose than the 2017 estate tasted immediately preceding it; rose petals, raspberry and cherry - undeniably ripe, but neither heavy nor confectioned. The new oak is evident underneath, but at 4 years old, this is really just a baby - Prima Donna takes a decade to come around, most vintages! Possibly due to the season, this has an energy and tension about it which is beautiful. Elegant yet powerful in that way Pinotphiles crave, this has a burnished sleekness, a velvet aristocracy which delivers poise, balance and length. All the components are there for a long life ahead but it is - surprisingly - already approachable if you must open a bottle now. It is often said that great wine, and especially great Pinot Noir tastes good at every stage of its life - perhaps because it relies less on tannin for structure as it does acidity (which rarely decreases with age). Lest there be any doubt, as enjoyable as the wine is right now, it is showing merely a fraction of its gifts - for the full experience, I would lay these bottles down for another 5-6 years. If nothing else, to allow the oak to integrate and the floral notes to emerge.

19.5/20 POINTS

Candice Chow | Raymond Chan Wine Reviews

June 2020

Dark, medium ruby-red with a black hue, slightly lighter on edge. The nose is gently powerful with lightly cooked red plums and cherries, dark herbs, entwined with earth and gamey development, along with savoury element, and warm oak spices. Medium-bodied, the palate is full of energy with flavours of lightly cooked red plums and cherries, dark herbs; unfolding earthy mushroom, sweet liquorice roots. Along with gamey, earth element; accompanied by savoury and warming oak spices linger to a long and sustained finish. The flavours are with depth and concentration. The fruit nuances of red plums and cherries, lightly cook, still has its crunch with a softened edge. The acid is full of energy but unintrusive, showing the wine with support and length, along with the alcohol power. The tannin is powdery and fine-grained, providing soft grip with structure, contributed the age-worthiness of this wine, carries some warm oak spices with an elegant presence. Flavours are integrated with harmony, complex and powerful yet gentle and elegant in presence with its development. A Prima Donna that's worthy of your attention.

Phil Parker | Ponsonby News

August 2020

An Epic North Canterbury pinot noir. Pegasus Bay nails it again with this superb wine. Smells like spice drawer, poached plum and vanilla with a tad of pot pourri. Silky and generous with flavours of dark chocolate, cherry, poached plums and a hint of Glühwein.

EXCELLENT TO OUTSTANDING

Mark Henderson | Otago Daily Times

April 2020

Appealing nose, darker register to the fruit, plum, tamarillo, bonfire embers, building in fragrance. Richly fruited, mouth-filling, this is clearly a ripe and powerful wine, yet it doesn't stray into excess. Some chalky/fruit pith and zesty acid interplay brings lovely liveliness to the texture. A fresh, tangy note hangs on the long finish. Delightful.

91 POINTS

Allen Meadows | Burghound.com

October 2020

A distinctly floral-suffused nose speaks mostly of poached plum and various dark berry aromas trimmed in a touch of herbal tea hints. The very rich and bold medium weight plus flavors possess fine mid-palate density before culminating in a youthfully austere, compact and firmly structured finale. This is quite backward at present and needs to develop more depth, but the concentration appears to be present for that to occur. Patience strongly suggested.

96 POINTS

Nick Stock | jamesuckling.com

December 2019

A very impressive pinot for the complexity and richness it offers.