

Virtuoso Chardonnay

2019

PEGASUS BAY
FINE WAIPARA WINE



98 POINTS

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

October 2021

Fantastic aromas of ripe apple, smoke, flint and stone. Sandalwood as well. Full bodied and very reductive with dry ice to the ripe and dried apple character. Dense and very layered, yet fresh and vivid. So long and intense. Great finish.

96 POINTS

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

March 2022

One gentle nose of this wine and the full impact of the bouquet is released. Aromas of a bold, oak, nut and rich fruit centered scents from roasted peach to baked grapefruit, burnt butter and oak spices of sweet vanilla and wet clove. Full-bodied, nutty, rich and satin textured on the palate with flavours that mirror the nose, but with even more power and intensity. Spices, warming alcohol, acidity and wood tannins build a solid foundation while the fruit flavours deliver contrast and core energy as well as flavour. A delicious wine, with weight and intensity, length and finesse. Best drinking from 2022 through 2032+.

19/20 POINTS

Candice Chow | [Raymond Chan Wine Reviews](https://www.raymondchanwine.com)

March 2022

Bright, pale yellow with a gold hue, even colour throughout. This has a full and compelling bouquet with softened aromas of roasted cashew, acacia, black sesame, flint and spice, interwoven stonefruit and grapefruit. The wine is full-bodied with softness and elegance; aromas of nectarines, apple and grapefruit entwined with roasted cashew, black sesame, flint, acacia and delicate spice. The wine is integrated harmoniously, with softened nutty aromas and flint added strength and maturity; lacy acidity brought energy and freshness to the multi-layered palate. This Chardonnay is harmonious with a complex range of flavours, balance and strength.

94 POINTS

Rebecca Gibb MW | [Vinous](https://www.vinous.com)

January 2022

Virtuoso is Pegasus Bay's flagship Chardonnay. The 2019 offers up a chunky slab of concentrated flavors, nutty oak and tangy acidity. It's a real mouthful of a Chardonnay with its mass of barrel- and solids-derived smoky/nutty characters. Starting off with a spritz on entry (Pegasus Bay likes to bottle with a dose of CO2), it expands in the mouth, giving a sense of power and richness that is all rather full on currently – you might need a lie-down afterward. Having spent 12 months in bottle after its year in barrel, the wine has been released at two years old, but this pup needs time to calm its ebullience and power. Patience will be rewarded, as there's a lot going on here.

19/20 POINTS

Joelle Thomson | [Drinksbiz](https://www.drinksbiz.com)

May 2022

For a full-bodied, complex Chardonnay that's made only in the best years and as a selection of the best barrels, Pegasus Bay's Virtuoso sure does make its mark on the memory. All grapes in this wine were hand picked in stages, gently pressed and fermented in French oak puncheons with a relatively high percentage (40%) of new oak. This supports the hedonistic weighty structure of the bold, creamy wine with its flavours of caramel, cedar and roasted stonefruit, intertwined with subtle, spicy taste explosions on the lingering, succulent finish. This is an outstanding chardonnay from a great winemaking team.

EXCELLENT

Mark Henderson | Otago Daily Times NZ

April 2022

Aromas leap from the glass with struckmatch, lanolin, clotted cream, growing perfume, fruit in support. Creamy at first before tannic grip and chewy phenolics add textural interest. Yellow fruits, ripe peach, richly mouthfilling on a lithe frame. Racy acidity and a bittersweet kernel note gets the salivary glands going. Built for the future.

96 POINTS

Sam Kim | wineorbit.co.nz

March 2022

A gracefully opulent chardonnay, showing grapefruit, rockmelon, vanillin oak, flint and brioche characters on the nose. The impressively concentrated palate delivers beautifully layered mouthfeel combined with creamy texture and bright acidity, finishing superbly long and expansive.

96 POINTS & 5 STARS

Bob Campbell MW | The Real Review

April 2022

Vine age, low cropping vines, planted on their roots and winemaking techniques that are designed to build maximum flavour and complexity have produced this seriously delicious, age-worthy chardonnay. It's an intense and impressively textural flagship chardonnay with ripe peach, tree fruits, honey, lime zest, toasted nut and charcuterie flavours. A backbone of fine, ripe tannins helps promote a dry finish and suggests that the wine will age well for at least a decade, perhaps more.

5 STARS

Michael Cooper | www.michaelcooperwines.com

August 2022

Blended from the 'best barrels', this wine is estate-grown and hand-picked from vines over 30 years old at Waipara. Fermented with indigenous yeasts, it is lees-aged for a year in French oak puncheons (40 per cent new in 2019), matured in tanks on light lees for several more months before bottling, and then bottle-aged for a year prior to its release. The 2019 vintage is bright, light lemon/green, with a fragrant, complex bouquet. Mouthfilling, it is a very 'complete' wine, with deep, ripe stonefruit flavours, searching and savoury, and a seamless, enduring finish. Already delicious.

96 POINTS

Cameron Douglas MS | camdouglasms.com

March 2022

One gentle nose of this wine and the full impact of the bouquet is released. Aromas of a bold, oak, nut and rich fruit centred scents from roasted peach to baked grapefruit, burnt butter and oak spices of sweet vanilla and wet clove. Full-bodied, nutty, rich and satin textured on the palate with flavours that mirror the nose, but with even more power and intensity. Spices, warming alcohol, acidity and wood tannins build a solid foundation while the fruit flavours deliver contrast and core energy as well as flavour. A delicious wine, with weight and intensity, length and finesse.

95 POINTS

Steve Leszczynski | qwinereviews.com

October 2022

Easily one of the best Chardonnays you will find in New Zealand, the team at Pegasus Bay seemingly achieve supreme class almost effortlessly. Go here, please do. A wine that encompasses so much detail and finesse, a welcome of barbecued peach, Jersey caramel, burnt butter, toffee and butterscotch greets you. Layers of interest peel off with ease - your discovery doesn't cease with such quality in the glass. Flinty, the creamy mouthfeel reaches out to you as it rolls about with absolute ease - a ball of pleasure you could say. Sure there is oak and there is some weight in the mouth, but the handling and balance with the fruit speak volumes for the winemaking. A little cashew cameo slides in late with a lemony tang having the final word, but it's by no means goodbye - I'm back for another dose in quick time. Bravo - just brilliant!