



# Pegasus Bay Reserve

## PRIMA DONNA

### Pinot Noir 2013

#### THE FAMILY

The Donaldson Family have been seriously involved in viticulture and winemaking for over 40 years. Founder Ivan Donaldson planted the first Canterbury vineyard in 1976 and went on to establish Pegasus Bay in 1986 with his wife Christine. It is a true family business, with all four of their sons and two spouses involved, managing various aspects.

#### THE VINEYARD AND THE VINES

We have about a dozen different clones of pinot noir and in some of our blocks these are intermingled. The vines, many of which are nearly 30 years old and on their own roots, grow on a series of north facing, gradually descending terraces. While the site is warm during the day it is cool at night. This allows the fruit to ripen fully but slowly and to retain good acid levels of natural acidity. The drainage is helped by stones intermingled with the soil.

#### THE SEASON

A mild spring was followed by a sunny summer and a lingering dry autumn. It was a perfect growing season with enough warmth to produce optimal ripeness but it was not too hot to destroy varietal purity or freshness.

#### HARVEST AND WINE MAKING

Prima Donna is part of our reserve series which we only make in exceptional years, provided it does not compromise the quality of our estate wines. It is a selection from the best barrels, coming from some of the oldest plantings in the vineyard. As with all our Pinot's, we use traditional Burgundian winemaking methods. We picked the various blocks at different stages, depending on their maturity, aiming for a range of red and dark fruit flavours. Approximately one third of the grapes were put at the bottom of the fermentation vats as whole bunches, with the balance being destemmed on top, retaining as many whole berries as possible. The vats were kept cool over the next few days to help extract the soft, silky tannins from the pinot noir skins. After approx a week, the must started to ferment naturally. During fermentation the floating cap of grape skins was gently plunged twice daily. When the fermentation finished, the grape remnants were left to steep in the wine for up to a week to help extract a different range of tannins that add structure and depth. The exact duration of this period was determined by daily tasting. Subsequently the wine was gently pressed off and put into oak barriques (30% new) from selected artisan Burgundian coopers. In the summer after harvest, when the weather warmed, the wine underwent a natural malo-lactic (secondary) fermentation. After maturing for 18 months, a selection from the best barriques (representing the many different plots & clones of pinot) was chosen and carefully blended, to produce the most complex and balanced wine possible.



#### THE WINE

It has a deep ruby hue. The aromas and flavours evoke impressions of black cherries, purple plums, wild blackberries and mulberries. These are underpinned with a savoury dimension suggestive of roast game, grilled mushrooms and black olive tapenade. There is a layer of velvety tannins that coat and refine its big body and taut muscular structure, helping to draw out its lingering aftertaste of chocolate mocha and spice. While ready to drink on release it can be expected to cellar well and evolve gracefully for many years.

HARVEST DATE	BRIX AT HARVEST	ALCOHOL CONTENT	R.S	T.A.	AGING POTENTIAL
1st-14th April 2013	24	13.0%	< 1g/l	5.3g/l	10+ yrs

Wine in moderation is a natural health food.

PEGASUS BAY  
FINE NORTH CANTERBURY WINE



Bob Campbell MW  
www.bobcampbell.nz  
March 2018

## Pegasus Bay PRIMA DONNA Pinot Noir 2013



96/100 points

A limited edition selection of wine made from grapes grown on the oldest vines in superior vintages. Deeply-scented wine that deserves to be decanted for best results. Intense pinot noir with plum, dark cherry and berry, liquorice, mixed spice and classy oak flavours. Showing some bottle development but capable of much more.



## Pegasus Bay PRIMA DONNA Pinot Noir 2013

96/100 points

The refinement and brilliance of the fruit on offer here really sets this wine apart from the regular Pegasus Bay pinot noir. Deliciously rich dark cherry aromas and flavors are presented amid silky, refined and long-form tannins. **A great wine, in every respect.**



## Pegasus Bay PRIMA DONNA Pinot Noir 2013

"Prima Donna Pinot Noir is an elite barrel selection and in 2013 it is one of the greatest wines I have ever seen from this country. It is a year away from release, so satiate your palate on my chosen masterpiece in the meantime and cement this wine in your mind for all time".  
- Matthew Jukes



PEGASUS BAY  
FINE NORTH CANTERBURY WINE



Raymond Chan  
www.raymondchanwinereviews.co.nz  
February 2018

## Pegasus Bay PRIMA DONNA Pinot Noir 2013



96/100 points

“Very dark, deep, purple-hued ruby-red colour, a little lighter on the rim, youthful in appearance. The bouquet is full and voluminous with a full array of savoury fruit and floral aromatics, showing ripe, dark-red berry fruit melded with dark and dried herbs, nuances of undergrowth unveiling red floral elements. **This is complex, detailed and harmonious in presentation.** Medium-bodied, the palate is rich and expansively mouthfilling with an array of savoury red berry fruit along with plum notes, dried herbs, cedar and undergrowth complexities. The lusciously sweet flavours form a deep and rounded heart, showing richness and detail. The fruit is supported by fine-grained tannin structure with balanced acidity. **This has drive and linearity, and the wine carries with power to a long, lingering finish. This is a rich and succulently sweet, complex flavoured, mouthfilling Pinot Noir with detail and layers of a fine-structured palate with drive and power. ...”**



## Pegasus Bay PRIMA DONNA Pinot Noir 2013

92/100 points

Good medium red, not as bright as the regular 2013 Pinot. Dense, brooding aromas of red and darker fruits, spices and mocha. A step up in richness, sweetness and texture from the Waipara Valley bottling, offering a darker fruit character and a hint of menthol. This is weightier and more serious but also less fun today and in need of cellaring. **Deep, plush, rather powerful Pinot Noir with rich, ripe tannins and excellent length.**



## Pegasus Bay PRIMA DONNA Pinot Noir 2013

91/100 points

Pale to medium ruby in colour, the 2013 Prima Donna Pinot Noir has a Bing cherry, red currant and pomegranate scented nose with suggestions of underbrush and dried Provence herbs. The medium-bodied palate offers mouth-filling red berry flavours supported by finely grained tannins and plenty of freshness, **finishing long and earthy.**



PEGASUS BAY  
FINE NORTH CANTERBURY WINE



Michael Cooper  
The Listener magazine  
March 2018

## Pegasus Bay PRIMA DONNA Pinot Noir 2013



This refined North Canterbury wine is savoury, ripe and rich, with plum/spice flavour, velvety tannins and notable **complexity and harmony**.

