

Pegasus Bay Riesling 2009

The Story

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 Vinyard

The vineyard is located within the Waipara Valley of North Canterbury, on free draining, north facing terraces carved out of New Zealand's Southern Alps by an ice-age glacier. It benefits from being in the lee of the Teviotdale Range, giving maximum protection from the Pacific's easterly breezes and thus creating a unique mesoclimate. The vines are over 30 years old, with a large proportion planted on their own roots. The soil is free draining and of low fertility, resulting in naturally reduced vine vigour. This produces low yields of optimally ripened, high quality, flavourful grapes, which fully express the qualities of this unique terroir. The vineyard has warm days, but the nights are amongst the coolest in the Waipara Valley, drawing out the ripening period of the grapes, while still retaining good natural acidity.

Vintage 2009

An exceptionally early budburst was brought about by a very mild spring. Warm summer days with cool nights and a balmy, dry autumn produced healthy, perfectly ripened grapes with vibrant fruit flavours. It was a splendid season in general and an exceptional one for riesling, producing wines of high quality.

Winemaking

With its large diurnal range and long lingering autumns, North Canterbury is an ideal playground for Riesling, making it possible to create concentrated wines that still possess favourable acidity. Our house style involves giving the grapes an extended "hang time", and picking where possible with a small portion of noble botrytis, to accentuate the region's unique varietal features. Following harvest, the free run juice was fermented slowly at cool temperatures to help the wine retain its vibrant fruit character. At all stages, the wine was handled very carefully to help retain a little of its natural carbon dioxide. This has resulted in a small amount of spritzig, which adds extra liveliness to the wine.



info@thewinecave.nz

(+64) 9 930-8115

 <https://www.winecave.nz/>

 @TheWineCaveNZ

 @Thewinecavenz

Tasting Note

It is lemon in colour, with a bouquet packed full of citrus, particularly the orange zest that so defines North Canterbury Rieslings. There are also hints of stone-fruit, lychees, pineapple and tropical spices. The wine is satisfyingly concentrated, however there is a core of minerality and tangy acidity, which flows through the palate, helping to draw out its length and complement its off-dry finish.

Alcohol Percentage	12.5%
Residual Sugar	28 g/L
T.A.	7 g/L



info@thewinecave.nz
(+64) 9 930-8115

 <https://www.winecave.nz/>

 @TheWineCaveNZ

 @Thewinecavenz