



Pegasus Bay Reserve

FORTISSIMO

Fortified Muscat 2023

THE FAMILY

The Donaldson Family have been seriously involved in viticulture and winemaking for over 40 years. Founder Ivan Donaldson planted one of Canterbury's first vineyards in 1976 and went on to establish Pegasus Bay in 1986 with his wife Christine. It is a true family business, with the second generation now actively involved.

THE VINEYARD AND THE VINES

The vineyard is located within the Waipara Valley of North Canterbury, on free draining, north facing terraces. 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 35 years old, with a large proportion planted on their own roots. They are located on the "Glasnevin Gravels" where greywacke stones, silt and loam have been washed down from the mountains over the millennia. The soil is 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.

THE SEASON

Settled weather during Spring resulted in successful flowering and a healthy fruit set, meaning crop thinning was needed in some areas. Good heat concentration in early to mid-Summer then allowed the grapes to ripen beautifully. The remainder of Summer and Autumn threw up a mix of hot days interspersed with cooler spells, although rain was sufficiently spread out to ensure the bunches remained healthy and disease free.

THE HARVEST AND WINE MAKING

Fortissimo is a part of our reserve series, and only created in very small volume. This is just the third edition since it was first launched in 2016. It was made using Muscat grapes, in a similar style to the famous fortified Beaufort de Vinise of France. The fruit was left to hang on the vines until the very end of the season, allowing maximum concentration. Fermentation was undertaken in stainless steel tanks and then stopped using the addition of a neutral spirit, to ensure the pure Muscat flavours have not been compromised. Winemaking was kept to a minimum to ensure varietal purity and allow the terroir of this unique region to fully express itself.

THE WINE

Light gold in colour, the bouquet besieges the nose with a mesmerising feast of exotic and fragrant tones. Suggestions of rose petal, Turkish delight and candied lemon peel recline seductively between flecks of grilled pineapple, quince paste and oriental musk. Powerfully expressive, the palate is rich and multilayered, with fine-tuned acidity and integrated sweetness that swell in the mouth and lead to a harmonious, spice laden finish.



HARVEST DATE	BRIX AT HARVEST	ALCOHOL CONTENT	R.S	T.A.	AGING POTENTIAL
29th April 2023	29	15%	121 g/l	6.4 g/l	10 + yrs