



# Pegasus Bay Reserve

## ARIA

### Late Picked Riesling 2024

#### 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 30 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

Cooler and windier conditions during Spring meant lower crop levels, keeping fruit thinning to a minimum. The weather gods then handed us the opposite during Summer, with a warm and settled state prevailing, so this smaller crop was able to mature beautifully. Autumn was similarly favourable, allowing each variety to be picked at its optimum ripeness. Our 2024 harvest saw smaller yields across the board, but as a result we were blessed with intense fruit flavour and concentration, delivering some outstanding wines.

#### HARVEST AND WINE MAKING

Aria is part of Pegasus Bay's reserve series and is the sister wine to our Bel Canto dry riesling. Both are only made in exceptional years. After an extended hang time, the bunches were hand selected with a ripeness of approximately 28 Brix.

The grapes were then gently pressed, and the juice fermented slowly at cool temperatures to help the wine retain its vibrant fruit characters and varietal purity. At all stages, from fermentation to bottling, it was handled very carefully to help retain a little of its naturally dissolved carbon dioxide. This has resulted in a small amount of spritzig, which adds extra liveliness to the wine and accentuates its freshness.

#### THE WINE

With its bright golden hue, the bouquet is gorgeously fragrant and enticing, revealing a treasure trove of stone fruit, floral and citrus. White peach, apricot, honeysuckle and orange blossom, are melded with the refreshing zing of lemon curd and lime sherbet. The palate is wonderfully expressed, offering delightful sweetness, creamy texture and vivid acidity. This season has delivered a finely tuned rendition of Aria that is intense, yet finally poised, with a long, honeyed finish.



HARVEST DATE	BRIX AT HARVEST	ALCOHOL CONTENT	R.S	T.A.	AGING POTENTIAL
7th & 8th May 2024	27	12%	92 g/l	7.9 g/l	10 -15 years