



VIRTUOSO Chardonnay

What the press say

2019

98/100 “The New Zealand chardonnays were equally convincing, with the likes of Pegasus Bay delivering the richness of a Montrachet and unique freshness with its Chardonnay Waipara Valley Virtuoso 2019 ... **Dense and very layered, yet fresh and vivid. So long and intense. Great finish.**”
- James Suckling Wine Reviews, www.jamessuckling.com, USA

95/100 “Easily one of the best Chardonnays you will find in New Zealand, the team at Pegasus Bay seemingly achieve supreme class almost effortlessly ... A wine that encompasses so much detail and finesse ... Bravo - just brilliant!” - Steve Leszcynski, www.qwinereviews.com, AUS

96/100 “... A delicious wine, with weight and intensity, length and finesse.”
- Cameron Douglas MS, camerondouglasms.com, NZ

★★★★★ “... Mouthfilling, it is a very 'complete' wine, with deep, ripe stonefruit flavours, searching and savoury, and a seamless, enduring finish. **Already delicious.**”
- Michael Cooper, www.michaelcooper.co.nz, NZ

19/20 “ hedonistic weighty structure of the bold ... taste explosions on the lingering, succulent finish. **This is an outstanding chardonnay from a great winemaking team.**”
- Joelle Thomson, *Drinksbiz Magazine*, NZ

96/100 “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**”
- Bob Campbell MW, *The Real Review*, NZ

96/100 “A gracefully opulent chardonnay ... **concentrated palate** delivers beautifully layered mouthfeel combined with creamy texture and bright acidity, **finishing superbly long** and expansive.”
- Sam Kim, *Wine Orbit*, www.wineorbit.co.nz, NZ

19/20 “... The wine is full-bodied with softness and elegance ... **This Chardonnay is harmonious with a complex range of flavours, balance and strength.**”
- Candice Chow, www.raymondchanwinereviews.co.nz, NZ

94/100 “... It's a real mouthful of a Chardonnay with its mass of barrel- and solids-derived smoky/nutty characters ... it expands in the mouth, giving **a sense of power and richness** ... it expands in the mouth, **giving a sense of power and richness** ... Patience will be rewarded, as **there's a lot going on here.**”
- Rebecca Gibb MW, *Vinous*, USA

2016

92/100 “... It's medium to full-bodied but with **extra levels of silkiness and length**, with elegant citrus notes lingering for minutes.”
- Joe Czerwinski, www.robertparker.com, USA



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18.5/20 “**Bold, complex and alluring bouquet ... Complex, youthful and rich ...** Full-bodies, lengthy and persistent finish. Youthful with plenty of acidity and some wood tannins ...”
– Cameron Douglas MS, camerondouglasms.com, NZ

95/100 “Such a fabulous Chardonnay from New Zealand's Waipara region. **There's great depth and drive here** yet it feels unforced. ... Finely textured yet keeping some tension in reserve, **this is an excellent expression of the variety**”
– Steve Leszczynski, www.qwinereviews.com, AUS

★★★★★ “... **excellent complexity, balanced acidity and a seamless finish.**”
– Michael Cooper, www.michaelcooper.co.nz, NZ

★★★★★ “... There's also a lovely, almond and dried herb layer on the finish, the acidity is beautifully balanced and adds focus, brightness and purity to the long, rich finish. **Chardonnay lovers – you need this**”
– Yvonne Lorkin, www.yvonnelorkin.com, NZ

93/100 “The 2016 Virtuoso Chardonnay, God forbid, actually brought to mind a Meursault Village from Coche-Dury on the nose (yes, it is that good!). There is a touch of reduction here, but it is well managed ... **The lightly spiced palate is very well balanced, with a honeyed opening and touches of hazelnut, almond and sesame, leading to an intense finish that lingers in the mouth. Brilliant.**”
– Neal Martin, Antonio Galloni, *Vinous*, USA

95/100 “This is **impressively complex** on the nose ... a sumptuous palate that is **concentrated and weighty**. The wine offers terrific fruit power as well as engaging savoury nuances, finishing gloriously long and gratifying”
– Sam Kim, *Wine Orbit*, www.wineorbit.co.nz, NZ

★★★★★ “Intense, rich and weighty chardonnay with peach, biscuit, hazelnut, struck flint and oak flavours. A **generously proportioned** wine that's deliciously drinkable now but should develop well.”
– Bob Campbell MW, www.bobcampbell.nz, NZ

94/100 “Some **very rich aromas** ... The palate shows the attractively bitter edge that praline delivers, together with plenty of concentrated peaches and grapefruit.”
– Nick Stock, www.jamessuckling.com, USA

18.5/20 “ It is toasty, dry, full-bodied, creamy, smooth and succulent with loads of weight in the mouth and a lingering finish. **What more could you ask for in a top-notch chardonnay?**”
– Joelle Thomson, *Drinksbiz Magazine*, NZ

2015

94/100 **The top tier of chardonnay at Pegasus Bay is in great form ...** The palate heads more in a stone fruit direction. Supple and fresh.
– Nick Stock, www.jamessuckling.com, USA

95/100 “**Complex, alluring and seductive** bouquet ... complex and textured ...youthful and lengthy – **a wine to contemplate the world we live in right now**”
– Cameron Douglas MS, camerondouglasms.com, NZ



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2013

97/100 Ranked #1 of 15 2013 Chardonnay tasted from Waipara

“...Flagship chardonnay, ... Lovely mouth-filling and very textural wine. **An excellent example of this consistently top chardonnay**”
– Bob Campbell MW, www.bobcampbell.nz, NZ

19.5/20 “... This is a rich, multi-dimensional, complex Chardonnay with layers of flavour and a vibrant, powerful palate.”
– Raymond Chan, www.raymondchanwinereviews.co.nz

Excellent “ Power yet finesse here, nicely balanced **A serious wine** that will repay time in the cellar.”
– Mark Henderson, *Otago Daily Times*, NZ

92+/100 “ ... Wonderfully lush and rich but at the same time energetic and firm , with its stone fruit flavours perfectly balanced by spices and flinty minerals; salty and rich in extract....”
– Steve Tanzer, www.internationalwinecellar.com, USA

95/100 ... “...A powerful, rich and full bouquet of stone fruit, oak and spice: baked peach and nectarine with white spiced oak, new oak and a distinctive savoury/leesy complexity - even a flint-like edge. On the palate - dry, firm, youthful and intense... full-bodied and rich. **Great wine!**”
– Cameron Douglas MS, camerondouglasms.blogspot.co.nz, NZ

2010

91+/100 The 2010 Virtuoso Chardonnay begins a bit subdued at this stage yet shows notes of apple tart, peach cobbler and ginger-honey, plus some cedar and citrus undertones. **The full-bodied palate is solidly structured with tight-knit fruit supported by a vibrant acid line and a finish with great length.** It should fan-out with a further year in bottle and drink it 2017+.
– Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW, *Robert Parker's Wine Advocate*, USA

90/100 “Plenty to like about the nose on this wine. Rich, juicy stone fruit characters of white peach and nectarine, with lighter citrus flavours following behind. Spicy and pure on the palate...”
– Nick Stock, www.jamessuckling.com, USA

★★★★★ **"A wonderful Waipara wine**, just starting to break into full stride, with peach, nectarine and nut flavours, showing lovely depth and drinkability.” – Michael Cooper, *The Listener*, NZ

96/100 A wine of commanding presence, the complex bouquet shows peach, mango, grapefruit and nutty oak aromas with subtle flinty notes. It's undeniably powerful on the palate yet perfectly balanced and harmonious. **This formidable chardonnay is multi-layered and sophisticated.**
– Sam Kim, www.wineorbit.co.nz, NZ



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2009

93+/100 points "The 2009 Virtuoso Chardonnay is a barrel selection wine, from older vines on their own rootstocks and naturally fermented/aged in French oak puncheons, 50% new. Crisp, concentrated and medium bodied in the mouth, it's still young and taut but has **a gorgeous satiny texture and a long finish.** "
- Lisa Perrotti-Brown MW, Robert Parker's Wine Advocate, USA

96/100 points "One of the great chardonnay labels, Pegasus Bay have delivered an **exceptional wine from the 2009 vintage.** It's gorgeously complex on the nose displaying stone fruit, oatmeal, cashew, vanilla and subtle savoury notes. The palate is superbly concentrated and focused with rich texture, finishing extremely long and expansive. Matured for three years before release - one year in barrel on lees, one in tank on light lees and one in bottle. Based on previous vintages of Virtuoso, **this stunning beauty will develop graciously.**"

- Sam Kim, www.wineorbit.co.nz, NZ