

PEGASUS BAY

FINE NORTH CANTERBURY WINE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday 1st May 2020

THE END OF ONE ERA & THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER FOR PEGASUS BAY WINERY RESTAURANT

The Donaldson family of North Canterbury's iconic Pegasus Bay Winery will be making available their restaurant & spectacular gardens to host private events for the first time in almost 20 years.

The winery restaurant first opened its doors in 1992 and over the years has firmly established an international reputation for the outstanding quality of its food & wine, breath-taking gardens & impeccable service. It has won its category in the prestigious Cuisine Magazine Good Food awards an unprecedented 8 times.

The use of the restaurant for private events will replace its à la carte dining offering, in a new era for the hospitality side of the winery, starting in spring 2020. The cellar door will reopen on weekends at C-19 level 2.

“We feel opening our venue for private events will allow us to utilise the space more effectively compared with operating a lunch time restaurant, given the likely ongoing border restrictions as well as a number of other COVID-19 related factors working against us. We may well revisit the à la carte model again sometime in the future, but for now we feel it's the best use of this beautiful setting. We have had so many amazing regular customers over the years & we would like to thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their support. We hope that we are still able to be of service to them through booking events with us. Even though it has been many years since we've offered private functions, we still receive frequent enquiries, & as a family have decided now is the right time to explore this new direction.

We also plan on collaborating with some of our favourite chefs/restaurants around the country to host our own events which would be open to the public. So, while closing our lunch time restaurant has not been an easy decision to make & comes with a heavy heart, it also opens up new possibilities and opportunities. We couldn't be prouder of our amazing restaurant team who have regularly gone above and beyond to create special memories for our customers & we are forever grateful for this. The level of professionalism and dedication the team brought to work each day was absolutely incredible, they have been like family. We would also like to acknowledge the outstanding job Belinda Donaldson has done managing the restaurant for the past 15 years. Belinda will continue to look after the hospitality side of the business during this new era as events manager”.

-Edward Donaldson

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About Pegasus Bay Winery

Pegasus Bay was established in 1985 by Associate Professor Ivan & his wife Chris Donaldson along with their 4 sons, all of whom work in key areas of the business today. Ivan, now retired from medicine, oversees viticulture while Chris looks after the landscaping & gardening at the winery's extensive grounds. Eldest son Matthew is Wine Maker, Michael is Canterbury Sales Manager, Edward the Marketing Manager & Paul is GM. Edward's wife Belinda looks after the hospitality side of the business while Matthew's wife Di helps with winery logistics. Pegasus Bay specialises in Pinot Noir & Riesling and have 2 labels, Pegasus Bay which is made from their home vineyard fruit, now 35 year old vines & Main Divide made using fruit sourced from contract growers. The Donaldson family are pioneers of the Canterbury wine industry planting some of the first vines in the region during the mid 1970's. They are widely regarded as being a leading producer of fine wine in North Canterbury. They have been awarded many accolades including being rated by leading US wine critic Robert Parker as one of NZ's top 5 producers.

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