



FELTON ROAD

Recent Reviews

GOURMET TRAVELLER

WINE

from 100 Top New Release Wines

June / July 2017

97 ★★★★★

2015 Felton Road Block 6 Chardonnay, Central Otago, NZ\$48

More luscious and concentrated than the Block 2, but rather rarer – this is only the second Block 6 I've tasted. It seems more complex. Mineral and citrus on the palate but with ripe stone fruit and apple flavours. An impressive wine.

98 ★★★★★

2016 Felton Road Block 1 Riesling, Central Otago, NZ\$39

Block 1 Riesling is a Kiwi classic and this is one of the best examples I've tasted. Rich and concentrated with lime, ripe apricot and a thread of chalky/mineral characters combining to produce a marvellous wine with exquisite sweet/sour tension.

96 ★★★★★

2015 Felton Road Block 2 Chardonnay, Central Otago, NZ\$48

A long-time favourite, this supremely elegant, high-energy chardonnay is tight, linear and fairly closed with mineral, lemon zest and a background of toast, roasted nut and brioche characters. Power delivered with even greater subtlety.

96 ★★★★★

2015 Felton Road Calvert Pinot Noir, Central Otago, NZ\$63

From biodynamic grapes, fermented with 25 per cent whole clusters and aged for 16 months in French oak. It's a bright, high-energy wine. A mix of cherry, savoury herb and baked earth flavours with a subtle mineral influence. Good now, better later.

Otago Daily Times

Wednesday, 7 September 2016

Pinots of 2014-15 tasty drops

2015 Felton Road Cornish Point Pinot Noir Price: \$72

Rating: Excellent to outstanding

Musk and sweat at first, receding as the rich, ripe red fruits come out to play. Touches of raspberry and oak nuances. Powerful palate, bringing in plums and darker fruits, finding a delicate balance between lovely fruit richness without straying into over-sweetness: a savoury note with time. Nicely judged tannins. Juicy yet beguiling.

2015 Felton Road Bannockburn Pinot Noir Price: \$60

Rating: Excellent to outstanding

Dark and brooding, some char and bonfire with wild herbs to follow. Quite powerful in its dark fruit core, yet with a slippery texture and lovely integration. Quietly assured style with a wonderful flow through the palate: this doesn't shout from the rooftops, but is simply delectable. This builds a lovely chewiness with time



Allen Meadows'

BURGHOUND.COM

The ultimate Burgundy reference

Felton Road Wines (Central Otago, NZ)

2014 Pinot Noir – Bannockburn: (14%).

I like the exuberant freshness of the ever-so-mildly herbal tea inflected aromas of red currant, cherry and floral scents. There is excellent cut and punch to the utterly delicious middle weight flavors that possess fine detail on the well-balanced and lingering finish. This will need a few years to develop more depth but the balance is such that I have confidence it will happen with some patience. 90/2020+

2014 Pinot Noir – Block 3: (14%).

A slightly ripe yet still wonderfully fresh, pure and cool nose features notes of red currant, plum, anise and rose petal along with an interesting hint of tangerine peel. There is a lovely mouth feel to the round, delicious and relatively generous medium-bodied flavors that possess a caressing mouth feel, all wrapped in a velvety, clean and solidly persistent finish. Like the Bannockburn this ever-so-slightly warm effort should repay mid-term cellaring and in particular to develop more depth. 91/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Block 5: (14%).

Here too there a whisper of herbal tea character to the notably spicier aromas of cherry, raspberry, plum and mint. I like the mouth feel of the round, delicious and vibrant medium weight flavors that possess a caressing palate impression before culminating in a complex, balanced and dusty finale. In particular the textured finish is really quite interesting as it's almost chewy yet the mouth feel isn't robust or especially structured. 92/2022+

2014 Pinot Noir – Calvert: (14%).

This is arguably the ripest wine in the range with its deeply pitched nose of plum, dark currant, earth and underbrush aromas that are trimmed in a bit of menthol. There is good richness and volume to the medium weight flavors that possess fine mid-palate concentration while displaying a rounded and caressing mouth feel on the complex, balanced and moderately dusty finish where a hint of youthful austerity can be found. 90/2021+

2013 Pinot Noir – Cornish Point: (14%).

An attractively fresh, cool and elegant nose combines notes of red and blue pinot fruit, spice, rose petal and Asian-style tea nuances. There is good verve and fine delineation to the vibrant, complex and supple middle weight flavors that deliver excellent length on the dusty and once again youthfully austere finale. This lovely effort should reward from 6 to perhaps 9 years of cellar time. 92/2021+

OCTOBER 2016



Wine Advocate

February 2017, Issue 229

Lisa Perrotti-Brown reviews:

FELTON ROAD Calvert Pinot Noir 2015 – 90 points

"Medium ruby-purple in color, the 2015 Calvert offers expressive black cherry, black raspberry and anise notes with suggestions of lavender and dried Provence herbs. Medium-bodied, soft, supple and packed with black berry flavors, it finishes with great length."

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No: 13

FELTON ROAD

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: NEW ZEALAND

OWNER: NIGEL GREENING

Among the New World producers featured in this year's list, Felton Road may be the one punching most above its weight. The New Zealand firm produces just 12,000 cases a year and its high ranking on its debut in the Most Admired list is perhaps the biggest surprise of this year's poll.

It certainly was to owner Nigel Greening, who says: "Some might see us as more of an anti-brand. This is a winery that has a zero-growth policy and has held it for more than a decade. Its labels have never seen a design company, its bottles are the thinnest glass we can find. It has never had a marketing budget and it rarely puts its prices up."

Felton Road produces only Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Riesling out of the Bannockburn region of Central Otago, with no plans for other varieties or to increase production. All its wines are released on allocation, with importers frequently requesting more.

[Drinks International is a UK based publication with worldwide distribution. Each year their academy of judges are asked to vote in the annual survey for the 50 brands they most admire based on: consistent and/or improving quality; it should reflect its region or country; it should be well marketed and packaged and have broad appeal among wine consumers. The judges are drawn from a broad spectrum of the global wine trade, including: commercial buyers, importers, wine professionals, masters of wine, journalists and wine educators.]

April, 2017



Wine Advocate

December 30, 2016, Issue 228

"New Zealand: Part 1" - Lisa Perrotti-Brown

FELTON ROAD Block 2 Chardonnay 2015 – 93 points

"The 2015 Block 2 Chardonnay offers gregarious notes of ripe apricots, pineapple, ginger and marzipan with hints of lemon curd, crushed stones and honey toast. Medium-bodied, the palate delivers great intensity with a lovely creamy texture and invigorating freshness, finishing long with some minerality."

FELTON ROAD Block 3 Pinot Noir 2015 – 93 points

"Pale to medium ruby colored with a hint of purple, the 2015 Block 3 Pinot Noir opens with some earthy/stem notes, which soon give way to a core of red and black cherries, mulberries and violets, plus hints of black tea and tree bark. Medium-bodied, the black berry and earth flavors fill the mouth supported by a frame of ripe, fine grained tannins and just enough freshness, finishing long."

FELTON ROAD Block 5 Pinot Noir 2015 – 92+ points

"Pale to medium ruby-purple colored, the 2015 Block 5 Pinot Noir is youthfully reticent, offering delicate earth and floral notes over a core of red berries and pomegranate, plus a waft of garrigue. Light to medium-bodied, it has a fine backbone of satiny textured tannins and just enough acid to carry the perfumed fruit to a good, long finish. Give it another couple of years in bottle to see it really struts its stuff."

FELTON ROAD Bannockburn Chardonnay 2015 – 92 points

"The 2015 Chardonnay opens with ripe peaches, guava and grapefruit notes with underlying marzipan, orange blossoms and honeyed toast hints. Medium-bodied, the palate delivers great concentration and texture with a lively backbone and great length."

FELTON ROAD Bannockburn Riesling 2016 – 91+ points

"The 2016 Riesling has expressive honeyed white peach, lime blossoms and tangerine peel scents with a waft of coriander seed. Off-dry, light-bodied and with a lively backbone of refreshing acidity, it offers great intensity and a long honeyed/citrus fruit finish."

FELTON ROAD Bannockburn Pinot Noir 2015 – 90+ points

"Pale to medium ruby-purple in color, the 2015 Pinot Noir opens with notes of ripe black cherries and currants with touches of forest floor, aniseed and rose petals. The medium-bodied palate delivers softly textured red and black berry flavors with lovely poise and some earthiness coming through on the finish."

Jancis Robinson
JancisRobinson.com

Felton Road, Cornish Point Pinot Noir 2015 Central Otago 16.5

Blueish pale crimson. Rather rich and exotic but without excess sweetness – though definitely sweeter than the Bannockburn 2015. Very mouth-filling

Felton Road, Calvert Pinot Noir 2015 Central Otago 17

Fragrant, aromatic. Really rather refined and lovely. Gentle Pinot Noir rather than dramatic. Great delicacy – for New Zealand. Very long.

Felton Road Block 3 Pinot Noir 2015 Central Otago 17

Digestive biscuits and violets on the nose. Beautifully delicate. Very precise and charming. Quite open already. Quite sweet too. Very fine tannins.

March 2017

GOURMET TRAVELLER

WINE

TOP 12
NEW ZEALAND
RIESLINGS

June / July 2017

96 ★★★★★

2016 Felton Road Bannockburn, Riesling Central Otago, A\$37/NZ\$36

Made from biodynamically-grown grapes from blocks 2 and 4 of The Elms Vineyard. Hand-picked and whole-bunch pressed before fermentation with indigenous yeasts. Lovely juicy Riesling – very concentrated with lime, apple, white flowers and a suggestion of apricot. Absolutely delicious with wonderful acid/sweetness tension and a lingering finish. Very classy wine that promises to age magnificently.

95 ★★★★★

2016 Felton Road Dry Riesling, Central Otago, A\$37/NZ\$36

Made from biodynamically-grown Riesling grapes harvested from Block 2 of The Elms Vineyard that were hand-picked, whole bunch pressed and allowed to ferment for 10 weeks retaining just five grams per litre of residual sugar (technically dry). A truly dry and very appealing Riesling with quite concentrated lime and floral flavours. The wine has surprising weight and texture together with an attractive purity. Seriously impressive Riesling with a promising future.

BOB CAMPBELL MW

A FIRST LOOK AT OUR EDITORS' MOST EXCITING NEW WINES

Vol. 13, No. 23 | June 7, 2017

Wine Spectator
Insider

Marvin R. Shanken Editor and Publisher

FELTON ROAD

Chardonnay Central Otago Block 2 2015

92 points • \$65 • 20 cases imported • White

Opens with a vibrant streak of Meyer lemon flavors at the core, succulent and juicy, accented by notes of green apple, grapefruit zest and white peach. Focused and intense on the finish. Drink now. - M.W.

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