GOURNET

2012 Felton Road Block 3 Pinot
Noir, Central Otago, A\$110/NZ\$92
Beautifully perfumed pinot noir that
displays an array of flavours including
plum, raspberry, wild herbs, mineral, and
savoury/nutty/spicy characters that are
indefinable. Elegant wine with a firm
structure. Pinot noir made for the long
haul – I felt slightly guilty unscrewing the
cap after little more than a year since the
grapes were harvested. A recent vertical
tasting of Block 3 Pinot Noir covering
nearly a decade demonstrated just how well
the wine performs with bottle age. 14

96 *****
2012 Felton Road Cornish Point
Pinot Noir, Central Otago, A\$84/NZ\$69
The Cornish Point vineyard produces
distinctive pinot noir that is unlike the
winery's other single vineyard wine,
perhaps because the vineyard is surrounded
on three sides by the Kawarau River.
Deliciously fruity pinot noir with
blackberry, dark cherry, violet and a hint
of mixed Oriental spices (described on the
Felton Road website as "the Cornish Point
spice box"). Seamless wine that delivers
impressive power with great subtlety. There
is no question that it will age very well but
it's dangerously drinkable right now. 12

98****
2012 Felton Road Calvert Pinot
Noir, Central Otago, A\$84/NZ\$69
I found this wine hard to read when first
poured but it expanded in the glass to
reveal a pinot of great power and purity
with rapier-like focus and an incredibly
lengthy finish. Profoundly impressive wine
with a fascinating future. Felton Road lease
the Calvert vineyard in the Bannockburn
district of Central Otago and split the
annual grape harvest equally with Craggy
Range and Pyramid Valley. The resulting
wines provide clear evidence that
winemaking influence is profound.

972012 Felton Road
Bannockburn Chardonnay,
Central Otago, A\$53/NZ\$40
Aromatic and powerful chardonnay
with an ethereal texture and
lingering finish. Poised, high-energy
wine with citrus, mineral, stone-fruit
and winemaking flavours delivered
with great subtlety. 8

95*****

Bannockburn Pinot Noir,
Central Otago, A\$70/NZ\$59

This wine shows berry/cherry and floral flavours against a background of savoury/earthy/spicy characters giving extra complexity. Firmly structured pinot noir that could benefit from time, though still quite approachable now. 11

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