



FELTON ROAD

Recent Reviews

Cornish complexity

Aug 27, 2016 by Bob Campbell MW in Cellar Talk Wines

Felton Road Cornish Point Pinot Noir 2015, Central Otago, NZD \$72

Subtle, silken and very complex pinot noir with an array of dark cherry, plum, floral and Oriental spice flavours. A core of sweet fruit perfectly balances fine, drying tannins to give the wine a linear, lingering quality. Power delivered with subtlety. Very impressive. (Screwcap)

Score: 97 ★★★★★

Alcohol: 14%

Ageing: now to 2024

Food: Smoked duck breast, compressed duck, masala chickpeas, pressed pear, cauliflower



Felton Road riesling rocks

Jan 31, 2017 by Bob Campbell MW

In – TheRealReview.com - NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

Felton Road was a high performer in a recent tasting of Central Otago riesling occupying three out of the top four places (Mt Difficulty Target Medium Riesling 2016 was my third pick).

Central Otago is best known for pinot noir but in my view, riesling can scale the heights of the region's best pinot noir.

Felton Road has always made some of the region's best riesling but vine age and, to some extent, winemaking and viticultural experience, has added flesh, complexity and power to their three riesling labels taking them to new heights of quality.



The Felton Road Block 1 Riesling 2016 (NZD \$39 – 98 points) is the high performer. Although it has a fairly generous residual sugar of 66 gms/litre the wine tastes much drier than that figure might suggest. Winemaker, Blair Walter likes to serve wine knowledgeable visitors a glass and ask them to guess the residual sugar. "They usually pick a figure between 15 and 20 gms/litre" revealed Walter. I've enjoyed a vertical tasting of Block 1 stretching back a decade. The wine develops beautifully.

Felton Road Bannockburn Riesling 2016 (NZD \$29 – 96 points) is another brilliant wine that is closer to Block 1 than the price differential suggests. It carries a similar level of residual sugar and develops similar tension with a backbone of taut acidity. A serious riesling at an affordable price.

Felton Road Dry Riesling 2016 (NZD \$29 – 95 points) offers a more austere version for those who have an aversion to sweetness or perhaps plan to match it with a sweetness-intolerant dish. I miss the sweetness tension while acknowledging that this wine is a great match with raw oysters served with a squeeze of lime.

FELTON ROAD

Pinot Noir Central Otago Cornish Point 2015

96 points | \$80 | 80 cases imported | Red

There's plenty of purity to the strawberry and cranberry flavors at the core, with toasted rye and nutmeg aromas. Elegant and graceful, with tannins exerting a light grip on the finish, where the aromas expand.

Drink now through 2027. From New Zealand – MW

Pinot Noir Central Otago Block 3 2015

93 points | \$100 | 28 cases imported | Red

Shows terrific energy to the wild strawberry and raspberry flavors. Fresh and lively, accented with notes of pine needle and citrus peel. Vibrant on the finish. Drink now through 2030. - MW

Pinot Noir Central Otago Bannockburn 2015

94 points | \$65 | 240 cases imported | Red

Dark and brooding, with black licorice, plum and black cherry flavors that are velvety and sophisticated, accented with toasted cumin and paprika accents. Drink now through 2030. - MW

Pinot Noir Central Otago Calvert 2015

94 points | \$80 | 100 cases imported | Red

The crisp cranberry and pomegranate flavors are juicy and vibrant, with details of green tea, fresh earth and white pepper. Cohesive and harmonious on the long finish. Drink now through 2030. - MW

Pinot Noir Central Otago Block 5 2015

94 points | \$100 | 26 cases imported | Red

The lavender, green tea and juicy plum flavors are complex, creamy and elegant, showing nuances of clove, forest floor and cream soda on the endless finish.

Drink now through 2030. - MW

Feb 15, 2017

Felton Road Block 5 Pinot Noir 2015,

Central Otago €69.95 jnwine.com

Rightly regarded as the "daddy" of New Zealand Pinots with its black fruit allied to structure, length and finesse. 96/100

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Felton Road Block 3 Pinot Noir 2015

Rated : 94 Points

Felton Road Block 3 and Block 5 really do come with pedigree and cult following. Nice to have it. Attention to detail at Felton Road is pretty epic. Continues to be so. Vineyard work is amazing now, and increasingly – never satisfied with resting on laurels. A great formula.

Potent, fragrant perfume of concentrated red cherry, forest berries, truffle/field mushroom, briar, pepper, cedar and sweet clove spice. It's pretty epic in the way it falls out of the glass. Succulent, inwardly concentrated, so so smooth. This is a wine of sexiness, silkiness, satiny tannins, assured in its length and fanning finish. Superior. It feels almost haughty in its confidence; not a hair out of place, the suit has been pressed to perfection. Fancy.

Felton Road Bannockburn Pinot Noir 2015

Rated : 93 Points

This is a vineyard blend blend. Felton Road, dress circle vineyards.

Ripe choc-cherry, mocha scents, whiffs of black olive, truffle, warm sauna cedar. Mellow fragrance vibes. Sweet fruit, supple texture, good length, nice staining of palate. Feels pure in fruit flavour, just kissed with fancy oak spice, good length, nice, neat finish. Ticks many boxes. Has a luxurious feel. In the recliner.

Felton Road Calvert Pinot Noir 2015

Rated : 89 Points

The Calvert vineyard is kind of split now, Cloudy Bay and Felton Road being the frontrunners with the site. It sits on the lower side of the Felton Road dress circle. Whiff of sulphur sits over dark cherry fruit character, pickled cherry, cola, green herbs, clove oak. It's perky and yet smooth; a wine of two parts. Rich in soupy, ripe fruit, liquid coffee grounds, fine tannins cover the wine, it finishes squeaky, bitter and tight. Doesn't feel settled, but has some pleasure in the heady fruit character and relative transparency. Disjointed might be a word. Time should do the wine a favour, but on this day...

Felton Road Dry Riesling 2016

Rated : 94 Points

Far out, could the Felton Road vineyard get any more beautiful and vibrant-looking and healthy? Bursting with life. Nice to see goats brought into the biodiversity program. There was an army of vineyard workers there today, tending to the site. Gareth King, viticulturist, sixth generation horticulturist, hats off. It all starts with him.

Lovely perfume of lime juice, lemon barley water, Real Lemonade, ginger, green herbs. Much going on. Palate is clear, a pure strike of a percussion triangle showing citrus, green apple, tang of acid and gentle, cool sweetness. Pure, pristine, utterly mouthwatering stuff. Delicacy is here. Fruit clarity. Far out.

Felton Road Bannockburn Riesling 2016

Rated : 91 Points

The off-dry wine in the riesling ranks of Felton Road. From the dress circle, estate vineyard on Felton Road, Bannockburn. The new cellar door (appointment only), looks pretty expensive!

Swoosh! Slips and slides, but before we get to that, wafts of sweet fruit, florals, honey, green apple, flint in bouquet. Taste it – slippery, just, cool green apple acidity, kiss of honey, sweet lemon, candied citrus. Glides to a lightly chalky finish. Doesn't quite drill complexity, and probably best in youth, sweetness not quite met by acidity, but pretty bloody good drinking.

Mike Bennie: Posted 31 October 2016



*Wine Advocate
February 2017, Issue 229*

Lisa Perrotti-Brown reviews:

FELTON ROAD Cornish Point Pinot Noir 2015 – 91 points

"Pale to medium ruby-purple colored, the 2015 Cornish Point Pinot Noir exudes notes of black cherries and black raspberries with hints of dried Provence herbs, lavender, tar and game. Medium-bodied with a beautifully elegant palate, it delivers a great intensity of black cherry and herbal flavors framed by silky tannins and lively acidity, finishing long."

Felton Road newbies

Jan 17, 2017 by Bob Campbell MW

In – TheRealReview.com - NEW AND NOTEWORTHY



It's always a treat to taste Felton Road's latest releases, which are spread in two or three deliveries in each year. They are best known for pinot noir but also produce outstanding Riesling and Chardonnay as well as a pretty decent Vin Gris (Pinot Noir juice fermented off the skins to make a pale, copper-coloured dry wine).

The latest pack included three wines from the very good 2015 vintage and a 2016 Block 1 Riesling, which I plan to taste in a reasonably comprehensive tasting of New Zealand Rieslings (one of my favourite annual varietal reviews).

2015 Felton Road Block 2 Chardonnay (Central Otago – NZD \$48) is a favourite label of mine. I had the pleasure of tasting an eight-vintage vertical which convinced me that these wines need at least 3-4 years bottle age, preferably more, to reveal their full splendour. In youth, they are taut, mineral-laced wines but with age toasty bottle development and a richer texture make them even more appealing.

2015 Felton Road Block 6 Chardonnay (Central Otago – NZD \$48) is a rare treat. This is only the third year this wine has been released, the previous vintages were 2004 and 2006 (I've only tasted the 2006), although it has been "under review" for some time and promises to be a regular feature in future. Block 6 is at a higher elevation than Block 2 on a north-facing slope of schist gravel soils interspersed with calcium carbonate. The vines are now 23 years old. I found it to be more accessible and, possibly for that reason, even more appealing than Block 2. It will be interesting to see how both develop.

The 2015 Calvert Pinot Noir (Central Otago – NZD \$63) is a bright, high energy wine that has now been produced every year since 2006. Originally the fruit was divided equally between Felton Road, Craggy Range and Pyramid Valley, but in recent years it's all been made by Felton Road. It's a classic example of an iron fist in a velvet glove.

wine^{review}online.com

**Best of 2016, Part II
Top Category on the Rise:
New Zealand Chardonnay**

**Felton Road Wines, Central Otago
Chardonnay "Block 2" 2014**

(\$65, imported by Young's Market):

When I visited Felton Road last October, the plan was to show me the Chardonnays from 2015, and I was very fortunate to taste this wine...by mistake. To be sure, the 2015s are excellent (both the Block 2 and the Block 6), but both are now notably more tense than this 2014, which has unwound enough to show wonderful flinty mineral complexities along with very subtle oak accents while still showing acidic tension that brings to mind the profile of the finest Chardonnays from Chablis or Puligny-Montrachet. Although this is really just medium-bodied, it seems very generous on account of its exceptional complexity, and there's no doubt that it has five years of positive development ahead of it...at an absolute minimum. 95

By Michael Franz Jan 10, 2017

