



Felton Road Cornish Point Pinot Noir 2014

Posted on 16 August 2015

Cornish Point tends to be a little bit softer in texture and weight, with lower acidity from the site in general. Around 20 to 30% whole bunch, crushed to tank, left to sit and ferment wild. I oscillate on fully enjoying Cornish Point over the Block wines, but this release had me from a wink across the room.

Fine truffle note over black cherries. Smells like fine chocolate fondant, touch of Xmas cake spice, whiff of mahogany wood, then something fresh, frisky, gently herbal and floral. Slides across the palate with ease and a seamless, smooth feel. Great energy in the wine. Vibrant, harmonious, great balanced but distinctly also a relaxed, open weave feel that makes the wine so good. Really delicious. Really good.

Rated: 95 Points Drink: 2015 - 2025

Felton Road Bannockburn Chardonnay 2014

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Relatively early picking. Thirteen years of biodynamic farming on this site, and winemaker Blair Walter says the vines are really in the zone. Same old thing in winery, whole bunch press and straight to barrel. Natural ferment usually takes up to a week or more to start, then bubbles along for anywhere between weeks and months. A haze in 2014 meant that the wine needed a filter, which it normally doesn't get.

Suitably fresh scented – grapefruit, citrus pith, fine marzipan aromas. High toned and pretty. Tightly wound, licked with nougat oak flavours but feels brisk and citrus driven with a flicker of saline mineral feel throughout. Finishes tight, lightly chalky, tangy. Beautiful, sleek, straight forward chardonnay.

Rated: 93 Points Drink: 2015 - 2022

Felton Road Block 3 Pinot Noir 2014

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The famed Block 3. Some prominent new oak in the mix, a feature of the wine. Block 3 in 2014 was 'very good', yields to standard, (around 5ish tonnes per hectare). Whole bunch use in the ferment is around 25% of the whole ferment. I remember when I was in retail-land that the Block 3 and Block 5 were strictly allocated wines, almost mythical, right up there with the scarcest and most sought after. I wonder if they still get sold that way.

Regal perfume of dark fruit, fireplace, wet slate, briar, pepper and amaro herbs. Dark fruited to taste, lick of sweet fruit, prickle of saline acidity. Even flow across the palate, floods the palate, fine, powdery tannins set a frame and drag flavours long. Very elegant, lacy, fleshy feel to the wine and a persistence that speaks of quality. Even, pitch perfect. Great release

Rated: 94 Points Drink: 2015 - 2027+

Felton Road Chardonnay Block 2 2013

Sun 16 Aug 15 at 4.12pm

Fine flighty perfume shows some flinty notes, subtle walnut husk-like oak character, green apple, stone fruit. Very tight, racy wine, but with great inward concentration. Think green apples, citrus, ginger and lemongrass spice, but with a course of slate-and-flint mineral character driving through. Finishes long, so fine, so fresh. Superb wine here with refreshment factor and great flavour in tow. **95 Points**

Felton Road Bannockburn Pinot Noir 2014

Sun 16 Aug at 4.06pm

Has some meatiness and ashy oak sniffs over dark berry and dark cherry fruit characters. Whiff of green herbs, some briar, pepper – good, deep perfume. Slides across the palate with some concentrated sweat berry fruit feel, almost jammy, but pinched with ashen tannins and finishes with good build of crushed slate mineral feel and lemony acidity. Powerful pinot noir, but finds harmony in fresh acidity and lithe texture. Bold statement pinot noir. **92 Points**