



FELTON ROAD

Recent Reviews

The Real Review

ALLIANCE



What Bob thinks...

17 July 2017

2016 Felton Road Wines Block 3 Pinot Noir

★★★★★ - 96 points

Felton Road's most expensive pinot noir is a supremely elegant wine. Layers of coffee, violet, fresh herb, dark cherry and mixed spice flavours. It's long and linear, with a fine and slightly peppery texture. Can be enjoyed now but will deliver much more in time. Drink 2017 to 2025

2016 Felton Road Wines Cornish Point Pinot Noir

★★★★★ - 95 points

Lifted, aromatic pinot noir with cherry, floral and fresh herb flavours plus a seasoning of spicy oak. A pure, fruit-focused wine with energy and power delivered with subtlety. Bright, attractive and reasonably accessible but with obvious cellaring potential. Drink 2017 to 2023

2016 Felton Road Wines Bannockburn Pinot Noir

★★★★★ - 95 points

Felton Road's entry level pinot noir is an elegant blend of several vineyards with a mix of savoury, earthy, herbal and coffee flavours with cherry, floral and spice characters. It's a supple and complex wine that reveals power through a lengthy finish. Drink 2017 to 2022



AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL REVIEW

10 October 2017

Its pinot noirs hit the spot but Felton Road's riesling will blow your mind by Max Allen

I've come to sample some of New Zealand's most sought-after pinot noirs at a vertical tasting spanning the first 20 vintages from Felton Road, one of the leading producers of the variety in Central Otago.

But the wine that has made me go weak at the knees is a riesling.

It's not that the pinots aren't splendid. They are. It's a real treat to taste the older wines, from the late 1990s, all the way through to the latest releases, the 2016s.

There are plenty of gems among them. And it is also good to taste a few vintages of Felton Road's chardonnay, to see how the style has progressed, particularly in recent years, when it has become finer and more restrained. **But that riesling.**

Hooley dooley. So delicious.

A fab four from Felton Road

2016 Felton Road Bannockburn Riesling Central Otago, New Zealand

The technical notes tell me this riesling is a perfect balance of crisp natural acidity, low alcohol (9.5 per cent) and bright sweetness (63 g/L of residual sugar). My nose and tongue tell me it's farkin' brilliant: scintillating flavours of lemon meringue, fern, lime juice and fragrant honey, finishing clean and refreshing and lively. It was all I could do to restrain myself from draining my first glass and demanding another and then another (which really isn't the done thing at polite wine tastings). \$35

2016 Felton Road Bannockburn Chardonnay Central Otago, New Zealand

Felton Road's chardonnays have become finer and more crystalline over the past few vintages, partly as a result of slightly earlier picking. This is a scrumptious expression of the grape, with enticing aromas of green melon and wheatmeal, and a lovely, long lemony tang on the tongue. \$60

2016 Felton Road Cornish Point Pinot Noir Central Otago, New Zealand

This gorgeously fleshy, deep-tasting pinot noir comes from vines planted on a tongue of sandy loam soil that pokes out into Lake Dunstan. Picked earlier than the Block 3 (below), and benefiting from the moderating effect of the water, the Cornish Point pinot is consistently the richer, more sinewy, more robust of the two pinots. \$85

2016 Felton Road Block 3 Pinot Noir Central Otago, New Zealand

Produced from one of the blocks of pinot planted in the early 1990s in gravelly schist soil at the original Felton Road vineyard, this is a brighter, more vivid, livelier expression of the grape than the Cornish Point (above), with beautiful raspberry and bramble fruit and amazing focus and precision along the palate. \$110



Following our inaugural placing on this prestigious list last year we are extremely proud to have been elevated four places to 9th position in the 2018 list.

Following is a little of what they had to say about us:

9 FELTON ROAD

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: New Zealand

OWNER: Nigel Greening

Eighteen years after being bought by Englishman Nigel Greening, Felton Road has gate-crashed the top 10 in the Most Admired list after debuting at number 13 last year, putting it hot on the heels of Villa Maria for the honour of highest-ranking Kiwi producer. Winemaker Blair Walter juggles his main role with those of general manager, chief of exports and global sales director, though pressure to force sales graphs in an upwards direction is non-existent. Felton Road has a zero-growth policy for environmental reasons and the prestigious Central Otago Pinot Noir for which it is best known – along with its Chardonnay and Riesling whites – is sold principally on allocation, with loyal trade customers first in line.

GOURMET TRAVELLER

WINE

95 ★★★★★

from 100 Top
New Release Wines

Oct/Nov 2017

2016 Felton Road Bannockburn Chardonnay, Central Otago, A\$53/NZ \$46

Bright, tangy chardonnay with citrus, floral and crushed oyster shell characters, subtle oak and an appealing nutty yeast lees influence. It's a poised and ethereal wine that can be appreciated now, but will become even more interesting with bottle-age.

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The Real Review

By Bob Campbell MW

Jan 31, 2018

FELTON ROAD BLOCK 5 PINOT NOIR 2016

Slightly lighter in colour but with the usual Block 5 elegance and power delivered with great subtlety. Floral, spice and cherry flavours, with a savoury influence and a background of smoky oak. Good now, better later. Drink 2018-2025

FELTON ROAD BLOCK 6 CHARDONNAY 2016

Bright, fresh and tangy chardonnay with chalk mineral, citrus, grapefruit and subtle nutty lees flavours. A taut and elegant wine that's rippling with energy and shows promising cellaring potential. I like the wines complexity and underlying warmth. Drink 2018-2022



Joe Czerwinski,
March 2018

I almost feel like Felton Road should need no introduction by now. If two decades of excellence isn't enough to convince you to try these wines, what more can I say? Long time winemaker Blair Walter and I tasted through some barrel samples of the 2017 Pinot Noirs and then sat down to go through the current releases. Along the way, he offered some comments on the various trends he's seen over the years. On whole cluster in Pinot Noir: "We use 20-30%. It hasn't changed in 20 years. I don't like it when it clouds expression of site." On the effects of vine age: "The wines are less heavily fruited, show more nuance, greater fruit-tannin expression." The white wines are often overlooked here, but the Chardonnays and Rieslings are outstanding. Oak-averse consumers should note that the Block 2 and Block 6 Chardonnays use no new wood, as Walter feels "the mineralogy we have is quickly masked by the flint of oak."

Block 3 Pinot Noir 2016 94 Points

Deeper, denser and meatier than the other 2016s, the 2016 Block 3 Pinot Noir underwent similar élevage of 13 months in 35% new French oak. Plum, cola and earthy notes come across as slightly chunkier and more angular than the other wines, but the higher tannin levels should also support longer aging. This medium to full-bodied Pinot Noir is delicious now, but it should be even better in another 5 years' time.

Cornish Point Pinot Noir 2016 92 Points

Cornish Point was planted in 2000, so these vines are just entering their prime years. The 2016 Cornish Point Pinot Noir features dark berry notes and hints of thyme, coupled with ample weight on the palate and a soft dusting of tannins on the finish. It's approachable now, but it should age gracefully through 2025.

Bannockburn Pinot Noir 2016 92 Points

Unusually delicate red fruit notes mark the nose of the 2016 Pinot Noir. It's a mélange of strawberry, raspberry and cherry, with some herbal notes, cola and spice blended in. In the mouth, the wine is medium-bodied and supple, with a long, silky finish.

Bannockburn Chardonnay 2016 92 Points

Delicate notes of pencil shavings and lemon curd mark the nose of the 2016 Chardonnay. It's a plump, medium-bodied wine with flavors that incorporate hints of stone fruit but ultimately lean toward the grapefruit and lemon side of things without being sharp. Those citrus notes are cushioned by tea-like complexity of mouthfeel, extending through the silky finish.

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER

February 17 2018



Felton Road Bannockburn Central Otago Chardonnay 2016

★★★★★

A classy, distinctive wine that was aged in French oak barriques. Full-bodied (13.5% alc/vol), it has vibrant, subtle, grapefruit-like flavours, slightly biscuity notes adding complexity, and a long, harmonious finish.

NICK STOCK on JAMES SUCKLING 13 November 2017

FELTON ROAD PINOT NOIR CENTRAL OTAGO BLOCK 3 2016 Score 95

This moves up a gear in terms of complexity and swagger. Always a confident wine in the mix of Felton Road creations, it has reassuring cherry fruit depth on the nose as well as fragrant and ethereal perfumed character with citrus rind and cocoa powder which lifts it impressively. The palate has an array of strawberry, raspberry, boysenberry and red cherry fruits cast in a web of ripe, fine tannins that twists tight into the finish. Iron fist, velvet glove effect. Best from 2021. Screw cap.

FELTON ROAD PINOT NOIR CENTRAL OTAGO CORNISH POINT 2016 Score 93

An attractive layer of rose-like florals here, then lighter berry fruits as well as a plethora of strawberry and wild raspberry fruits with appealing oak spice. The palate has nice focus and drive, and a handy light cherry pip tang. Resolved and fresh. Drink now. Screw cap.

FELTON ROAD CHARDONNAY CENTRAL OTAGO BANNOCKBURN 2016 Score 93

This has been nicely pinned back into an elegant and fresh style that focuses on bright stone fruits and lemon citrus. The palate has fleshy, pure fruit appeal with a nice spicy build of oak into the finish. Drink now. Screw cap.

FELTON ROAD PINOT NOIR CENTRAL OTAGO BANNOCKBURN 2016 Score 92

A very seductive, smooth and almost candied expression in the "Village" Bannockburn wine. This has a glossy warmth to it from the get-go which reflects the warmer and drier vintage. Ripe boysenberry, cherry and strawberry fruits are smothered in fluffy, ripe tannins. Drinking well now. Screw cap.



Why Aren't There More Central Otago Chardonnays?

2016 Felton Road Chardonnay, Bannockburn, Central Otago, New Zealand

Palest gold in the glass, this wine smells of cold cream and lemon curd with a hint of toasted sourdough. In the mouth, the wine is wonderfully juicy and bright, with tangy lemon curd and green apple flavors layered over crushed stones and white flowers. Killer. Great acidity and texture. 13.5% alcohol. Score: between 9 and 9.5.

2016 Felton Road "Block 2" Chardonnay, Bannockburn, Central Otago, New Zealand

Pale greenish gold in color, this wine smells of white flowers and lemon zest. In the mouth, wonderfully floral notes of white flowers mix with pomelo zest and wet chalkboard minerality that has a deep stony quality. Gorgeous acidity and phenomenally silky texture. Finely balanced and stunningly deep and pure, this is definitely the best Chardonnay I've had from New Zealand, and by far the best that this producer has ever made. 13.5% alcohol. Score: around 9.5.

Posted by: Alder on November 4, 2017

GOURMET TRAVELLER

WINE

from
100 TOP NEW
RELEASE WINES

June / July 2018

97 ★★★★★

2017 Felton Road Block 1 Riesling, Central Otago, NZ \$46

One of Central Otago's, and indeed New Zealand's, top Riesling labels with juicy lime, floral and mineral flavours supported by juicy acidity that contrasts with sweetness to build exciting tension. Delicious wine with a proven ability to age well.

96 ★★★★★

2016 Felton Road Block 6 Chardonnay, Central Otago, NZ \$60

2016 Felton Road Block 6 Chardonnay, Central Otago, NZ \$60
Quite a taut, fresh, chardonnay that's rippling with energy. Chalk, grapefruit and subtle nutty lees flavours with the potential to reveal much more complexity after a few more years in bottle. Quite restrained with underlying warmth and richness.

BOB CAMPBELL MW

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