



# FELTON ROAD

## Recent Reviews

### The Real Review

# 100/100

By Bob Campbell MW  
Nov 28, 2018

#### Felton Road Wines Block 5 Pinot Noir 2017 Bannockburn, Central Otago, NZD \$109

This is an extraordinary wine. It boasts great purity and power with layer upon layer of subtle flavours that include violets, red rose petal, dark cherry and mixed spices – a kaleidoscope of ever-changing characters most keenly displayed on the finish. It's delicate, fragrant and has enormous length. Wonderful now – I look forward to charting its progress with bottle age. Ageing: 2018-2027



#### FELTON ROAD Named in Wine Spectator's Top 100 Wines of 2018

Wine Spectator, the world's leading authority on wine, has announced Felton Road has been named the #12 wine in this year's list of the Top 100 Wines. The full list of the Top 100 Wines can be found online at <http://top100.winespectator.com>.

The Top 100 recognizes the most compelling wines that our editors have reviewed over the past year," said Thomas Matthews, Executive Editor, Wine Spectator. "The state of wine is as strong and exciting as ever. We were particularly impressed with the continuing diversity of the wine world—more than half the wines are making their first appearance on our Top 100 list. We're thrilled to share the rising stars, outstanding values and benchmark bottles from both traditional and emerging regions.

November 2018



#### The yummy, off-dry, Felton Road Riesling Bannockburn Central Otago

(€35.49 @ good independents) is extremely aromatic, with notes of melon and nectarines on the nose.

The long and wonderfully satisfying palate, with citrus and exotic notes, is beautifully balanced, with the residual sugar nicely counterpointed by the vibrant refreshing acidity.

Drinking very well now but with will mature into something very special if cellared for a few years.

By Matthew Nugent - 18th January 2019

GOURMET TRAVELLER

# WINE

  

# 99

 ★★★★★

from 100 Top  
New Release Wines

Dec/Jan 2019

#### 2017 Felton Road Block 3 Pinot Noir, Central Otago, A\$135/NZ\$109

Extraordinarily complex. Layers of floral, herb, berry and savoury characters are so multifaceted as to defy description. A seductively silken texture adds to the appeal. I agonised over whether to give this wine 100 points; in hindsight I feel I may have been too conservative.

# 97

 ★★★★★

#### 2017 Felton Road Block Cornish Point Pinot Noir, Central Otago, A\$92/NZ\$80

Clearly a very successful vintage for Felton Road. Supple, elegant pinot noir with a sumptuous texture and floral, plum, dark cherry and oriental spice flavours. The wine has an extraordinarily lengthy finish – a sign of a real power. Accessible and appealing wine.

# 96

 ★★★★★

#### 2017 Felton Road Bannockburn Pinot Noir, Central Otago, AUST\$79/NZ\$

This is an intense, aromatic pinot noir with spice, plum and violet aromas joined by liquorice, prune and subtle nutty oak on the palate. Strong sweet fruit smothers fine tannins. It would be best served slightly chilled to restrain the fruit sweetness.

## imbibe.com

### Imbibe's top picks from New Zealand Wine's new releases

14 November 2018  
Bob Davidson



#### Felton Road Block 2 Chardonnay, Central Otago 2017

Kiwi Chardonnay was put in the news a couple of years back by fine wine merchant Farr Vintners, when they organised a blind tasting of Kumeu River versus some top Burgundies. The Kumeu River came out top. Felton Road is no less of a celebrated producer and this is a delicious example with the same potential to outshine its French rivals if tasted blind.

Despite the absence of new oak, but this is still an incredibly complex wine. Aromas of crisp apples, tea leaves, and an almost spicy, fresh tobacco quality meet you from the glass. It's got a wonderful structure and texture, with a rich, long and evolving length.

£26.50, Berry Bros & Rudd, 08002802440

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A FIRST LOOK AT OUR EDITORS' MOST EXCITING NEW WINES

# Wine Spectator Insider

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Harvin R. Shanken Editor and Publisher

A Members-Only, Weekly Publication

## FELTON ROAD

**Pinot Noir Central Otago Block 3 2017**

**94 points | \$75 | 50 cases imported | Red**

Plenty of peppery sage and thyme hints lead the way upfront, with gunpowder tea, nutmeg and toasty rye notes mingling with strawberry and cranberry flavors. The tannins are muscular, but never get in the way. Drink now through 2028.—M.W.

## FELTON ROAD

**Pinot Noir Central Otago Block 5 2016**

**94 points | \$75 | 70 cases imported | Red**

Elegant and savory, with spiced cherry, matcha and mineral notes against a sleek, smooth frame. Accents of chicory and tobacco gain momentum on the finish, where the tannins offer an appealing grip. Drink now through 2028.—M.W.

## FELTON ROAD

**Pinot Noir Central Otago Cornish Point 2016**

**94 points | \$60 | 158 cases imported | Red**

Red licorice and clove add aromatic details to the polished cherry and raspberry flavors, with cigar box, rosemary and fresh loamy earth notes. Plenty of precision and elegance here, with a long, lingering finish. Drink now through 2028.—M.W.

Selected by Wine Spectator as a **HOT WINE**

HOT WINES are the most exciting discoveries from the editor's most recent ratings. They are high-scoring wines from around the world that may be difficult to find, but are worth seeking out.

## FELTON ROAD

**Pinot Noir Central Otago Bannockburn 2017**

**96 points | \$50 | 240 cases imported | Red**

Elegant, fresh and vibrant, this red starts off wonderfully perfumed, with lavender, white pepper and green tea notes that accentuate the purity of the cherry and raspberry flavors. Polished tannins still provide some grip on the finish, where white truffle and forest floor details linger. Drink now through 2032.

From New Zealand.—M.W.

# THE BUYER

CONNECTING THE PREMIUM ON-TRADE

## How Felton Road Chardonnay is crafting a Central Otago style

If you are making Chablis you will probably have several generations of the family to consult and 1000s of different expressions to try, across different terroirs, altitudes and in different vintages. For Felton Road's Blair Walter, making Chardonnay in Central Otago has no such history. Unfairly overlooked, because of Otago's excellence in making Pinot Noir, the region is slowly developing its own distinctive style, argues *Anne Krebiehl MW*.

### Felton Road Bannockburn Chardonnay, 2017

Fleshy fruit and the earthy richness of a high-solid ferment are apparent but also an edge of something green and fresh. Hints of flint and smoke are softened by lactic roundness. The palate shows burgeoning stone fruit as well as great precision and freshness. This spent 13 months in barrel of which just 4% was new oak, the rest are barrels of up to 18 years of age. In fact, 70% of the barrels are older than five years.

### Felton Road Chardonnay Block 2, 2017

From 25-year-old vines, again that earthy richness but also intense stone fruit, confit lemon and something heady and fresh – it exists somewhere between bergamot and rhubarb. The palate has the inherent richness of Central Otago, a streak of warmth cooled by pristine freshness. Walter notes that the fulsome fruit expression is also down to the Mendoza clone. Its 17 months in barrel give it texture but no toasty notes at all.

### Felton Road Chardonnay Block 6, 2017

Just like Block 2 this is on Lochar Gravels, but this is a steeper site. Walter says its windiness makes for smaller berries and a little more subdued fruit expression. This is a sleek number with wonderful intensity and drive. Its acidity feels as sharp as a steely knife blade flashing under blue skies in Central Otago's blazing sunlight. Not for the fainthearted but for lovers of energy and zest.

29 November 2018

**AFR**  
Magazine

## 2017 FELTON ROAD CORNISH POINT PINOT NOIR Central Otago \$92

Winemakers from the Family of Twelve, a group of top family-owned Kiwi wineries, hit town recently conducting masterclasses. The pinots they poured were particularly strong, as this brilliant wine from Central Otago demonstrates.

It started out all tight, focused and tart, maraschino cherry-juicy when you first pour it, but as you swirl it in the glass it relaxes and reveals fleshier qualities, darker fruit, more suppleness. Very seductive pinot.

Imported by [redandwhite.com.au](http://redandwhite.com.au) Max Allen, 30 Nov 2018

## Otago Daily Times

### WINE TIMES

MARK HENDERSON

### 2017 Felton Road Block 3 Pinot Noir

Price: \$109 Rating: Outstanding

A little struck match leads, cherry notes flirting with raspberry. Sweet fruit entry, cherry, ripe red fruits, smoke, developing wild herb and juniper notes with time. The fruit power initially disguises the tannins, which show their intent with aeration. Wonderful balance, fruit intensity and complexity flowing to a delightfully long finish.

Super stuff, time will be a good friend here.

Wednesday, 6 February 2019

### 2017 Felton Road Block 6 Central Otago Chardonnay

Price: \$62 Rating: Outstanding

Fleeting wildness, spices, almonds, Brazil nuts and smoke frame the ripe fruit notes. Rockmelon and orange zest lead the way, nectarine and peach with aeration, evident power here. This purrs into top gear, becoming delightfully creamy, flowing seamlessly to a fresh, crunchy and nutty close. Classy stuff that draws you back for more.

Wednesday, 19 December 2018

### 2017 Felton Road Block Cornish Point Pinot Noir

Price: \$80.50 Rating: Outstanding

Creamy, silky entry, surprising density in the mouth, deceptive power yet without heaviness. The rich dark cherry and wild herbs flirt with savoury notes, the tannins caress your gums. All the while a youthful verve and juiciness hints at more to come as the wine grows magnificently with aeration, flowing to a superb, long finish. Already a delight.

Wednesday, 19 December 2018

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