



PURPLE PAGES

Jan 2020 by Julia Harding MW

Felton Road, Block 5 Pinot Noir 2018 Central Otago

A little bit smoky on the nose. Dark-red fruit and pretty closed at the moment. Closed like a rocky cave. Gorgeously dry texture, such fine tannins but bone dry. A very long-term wine but beautifully in balance even now.

Score: 18++

Felton Road, Block 3 Pinot Noir 2018 Central Otago

Dark and rocky aroma of earthy red cherries. Greater density here than on the Cornish Point, darker, more mineral and less saline. Elegant restraint. Totally embryonic but the tannins are super-fine already.

Score: 17.5++

Felton Road, Calvert Pinot Noir 2018 Central Otago

Mid cherry red. Ripe almost smoky red-cherry fruit. A slightly firmer grip to the tannins compared with the Bannockburn. Dry finesse and freshness and a really savoury darkly mineral aftertaste. Much too young but already in perfect harmony for a long future.

Score: 17.5

Felton Road, Cornish Point Pinot Noir 2018 Central Otago

Light bright cherry red. Sour red cherries on the nose too. Spicy, chewy and embryonic with a long salty finish. Not offering pleasure yet but everything is in place. Sour-cherry aftertaste.

Score: 17++

Felton Road, Bannockburn Pinot Noir 2018 Central Otago

Subtle rocky/mineral dark-red fruit. Taut and elegant on the palate. Intensity without weight, sweet fruit without sweetness. Long and super-fine tannins.

Score: 16.5

Felton Road, Block 6 Chardonnay 2018 Central Otago

Subtle stony citrus and green fruits. Restrained oak spice. Chewy and deep on the palate but not heavy. Serious, savoury but with a core of fruit. Long, fresh finish.

Score: 17

Felton Road, Block 2 Chardonnay 2018 Central Otago

Mealy and more scented than their Bannockburn Chardonnay 2018. Creamy effect of the lees. Subtle and inviting. There's something silky and cool at the heart of this. Lovely purity and effortless concentration so that the oak is in the back seat. Moreish and mouth-watering. A wine to linger over. You could broach this quite soon but there's no hurry.

Score: 17

Felton Road, Bannockburn Chardonnay 2018 Central Otago

The aroma here is more savoury than most, the fruit crisper and fresher and the oak mealy rather than toasty. Even more savoury on the palate, with a reductive smokiness and a slightly sour citrus freshness. Concentrated and needs time to settle down.

Score: 16.5++

Felton Road, Block 1 Riesling 2019 Central Otago

Beautifully scented on the nose, pure citrus and blossom. Sweet and creamy and although it is sweeter than the Bannockburn, it seems better balanced. Long, succulent and scented from start to finish.

Score: 17