



FELTON ROAD

Recent Reviews

Decanter
the world's best wine magazine

Georgina Hindle
December 31, 2021

Top-scoring wines of 2021: 100-point wines
See the wines tasted in 2021 that got a perfect score from our experts including two Champagnes from 1979 and 2002, five Bordeaux wines, four Burgundies, two from Washington State and a New Zealand Pinot Noir.



2017 FELTON ROAD PINOT NOIR BLOCK 5

Tasted by Bob Campbell MW (at Great wine regions tasting, 01 May 2021)
Grown under an organic/biodynamic and non-interventionist regime, this wine perfectly captures the unique character of an extraordinary vineyard. 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 is delicate, fragrant and has enormous length. Wonderful now, I look forward to charting its progress with bottle age.

Drinking Window 2021 - 2027

MaryAnn Worobiec
June 30, 2021

Wine Spectator

Felton Road Pinot Noir Central Otago Block 5 2019

• 94 Points | \$84

Plush, showing a seamless, harmonious quality to the silky pomegranate, black cherry and cranberry flavors, with loamy forrest floor, cedar and cardamom seed notes that linger on the finish. Drink now through 2031

Felton Road Pinot Noir Central Otago Block 3 2019

• 93 points | \$84

Dark chocolate, black cherry and plum flavors show a mix of licorice, cumin and turmeric, adding a savory thread. Matcha green tea and white pepper notes are followed by a touch of currant that lingers on the finish. Drink now through 2035.

Felton Road Pinot Noir Central Otago Cornish Point 2019

• 94 points | \$63 | Red

This impressive version is intense and velvety, with dried thyme, black cherry and blackberry flavors, with notes of dragonwell green tea, sweet paprika and cardamom adding an aromatic edge on the long, memorable finish. Drink now through 2035.

Felton Road Pinot Noir Central Otago Calvert 2019

• 92 Points | \$63

Dense, dark, brambly fruit flavors at the core expand to loam, white pepper, dried herb, tobacco and black tea notes and muscular tannins that firm up on the long finish, where all the elements find harmony. Drink now through 2032.

Felton Road Pinot Noir Central Otago Bannockburn 2019

• 94 Points | \$54

Generous and juicy wild strawberry, cranberry and spiced cherry flavors start off flashy and mouthwatering, but then settle into a harmonious mix of spicy tobacco, clove and oolong tea notes, with details of chicory and forest floor that linger on the long, expressive finish. Drink now through 2034.



Apr/May 2021
Bob Campbell, MW

TOP NEW RELEASE WINES

96 ★★★★★
2019 Felton Road Block 5 Pinot Noir,
Central Otago, A\$125/NZ\$109

Situated on a gentle north-facing slope in the heart of the Elms vineyard. A firmly structured pinot with concentrated plum, dark cherry, violet, and savoury/spicy flavours that suggest coffee and dried herbs. Clearly a long-distance runner.

96 ★★★★★
2019 Felton Road Block 6 Chardonnay,
Central Otago, A\$80/NZ\$66

Richer and slightly riper than Block 2 chardonnay thanks, at least in part, to small berries in the Mendoza clone chardonnay. Pronounced tree fruit – nectarine/peach – characters with a Chablis-like mineral influence. Vibrant and high energy.

BEST BUY WINES over \$35

Apr/May 2021
Bob Campbell, MW

2018 Felton Road Calvert Pinot Noir,
Central Otago, NZ\$68

From the hottest vintage on record during the months of October to January followed by a cool, wet February – with harvesting starting on 28 February. The unusual season produced a wine of surprising delicacy with impressive underlying power. Ripe plum, cherry, red rose, violet and a suggestion of spicy oak and coca powder. Accessible now but with potential.

October/November 2021
DRINKSBIZ.CO.NZ



AROMA WORLD

**They're a sign of lighter times ahead –
Joelle Thomson selects aromatic whites
to brighten shelves and lift wine lists.**

2020 Felton Road Riesling RRP \$38.99

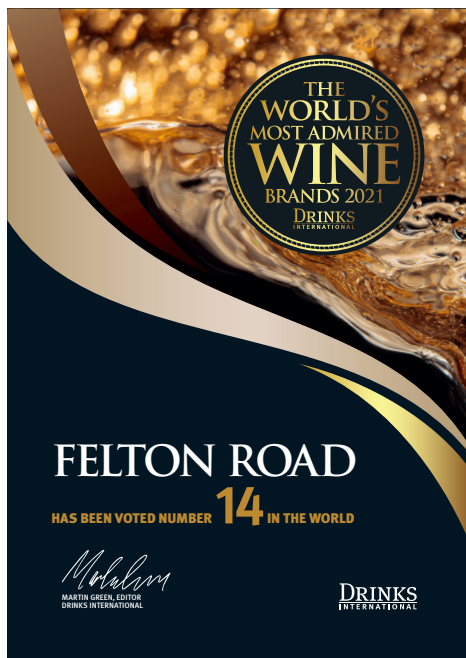
Felton Road winemaker Blair Walter makes three Rieslings, all of which highlight the strong potential of Central Otago as a great white wine region, even if it is better known as Pinot Central. The intense lime zest, green apple skin and ripe peach flavours in this Riesling belie its dry style with just six grams of residual sugar nicely balanced by ripe flavours. It drinks beautifully right now and is a keeper, as all great Rieslings are. **19/20**

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Felton Road Pinot Noir Central Otago Block 5 2019

Very fragrant nose here with deeply woven complexity. Earthy nuances, bracken, leaves and spiced red cherries abound with roses and violets, as well as blueberries. The palate has long tannins that extrude deep along a central spine. Lots of blueberry and red-cherry flavors. The contained, fleshy feel of the palate is really something and this always powerful wine is in such, supple and fluid form. Drink or hold. **Score 98**

Felton Road Pinot Noir Central Otago Calvert 2019

A very vibrant and ripe Calvert with attractively spicy oak integration, as well as abundant red and dark cherries. Super fragrant. The palate is so silky and plush, packed with concentrated, fresh red-cherry flavor. Blueberry finish. Drink or hold. **Score 96**

Felton Road Chardonnay Central Otago Block 2 2019

Rich peach and lemon-curd aromas here, with strong fruit focus, some oak spice and light nougat notes. The palate has a composed, softly fleshy and gently creamy feel with banana and vanilla-laced pear flavors. Super composed. Drink now. **Score 93**

Felton Road Bannockburn Riesling 2020

There are aromas of lime pie and some light fresh herbs, as well as white peach and pastry. The palate has impressive concentration and deep-set lime and sweet apple flavors. Treads the off-dry line nicely. Super fresh, pithy resolve. From biodynamically grown grapes. Drink or hold. **Score 94**

Felton Road Dry Riesling 2020

Stunningly fresh and flinty with spice and white-pepper edges to the sliced green apples, white flowers and fresh, leafy-herb notes. The palate has a very punchy, tight-wound entry and then layers out some handy fruit flesh that heads through apple and citrus to peach and nectarine. Super pure. From biodynamically grown grapes. Drink or hold. **Score 94**

Felton Road Block 1 Riesling 2020

Aromas of white peach and nectarine are fresh and mouthwateringly pure. There's a gently stony edge below. The palate has a very astutely struck balance between acidity and sugar and delivers a long, incredibly intense, sweet lime core. Scintillatingly pure. From biodynamically grown grapes. Drink or hold. **Score 97**

16 December 2020

vinous

Rebecca Gibb MW,
November 2020

2019 Felton Road Chardonnay Block 2

94 Points

Drinking Window: 2022-2027

If you're looking for an easygoing, approachable-in-youth Chardonnay, you're in the wrong place. Drink Felton's Bannockburn and Block 6 while you're waiting for this cuvée to reach its peak. The reason is that it has a steely rod of acidity, which provides tension from start to finish. The wild fermentation in barrel imbues a mellow, nutty character to the upright, citrus and red apple fruit. There's excellent depth here and long length.

2019 Felton Road Chardonnay Block 6

93 Points

Drinking Window: 2020-2024

Felton Road's Block 6 is north-facing, so it receives more sun compared with the east-facing Block 2 Chardonnay. As a result, it's a little more generous in its ripeness and mouthfeel yet remains precise and focused. This midweight style has a streak of assertive acidity, commonly found in Chardonnays made from the Mendoza clone. However, 18 months in old oak has rounded its edges and imbued an almost savory, nutty edge to the lengthy finish. Can be enjoyed now but won't be going anywhere in a hurry.

2019 Felton Road Chardonnay Bannockburn

90 Points

Drinking Window: 2020-2023

While the owner of Felton Road calls this wine its everyday Chardonnay, this would be the height of winemaking sophistication for many NZ producers. Whole-bunch-pressed and wild-fermented in French oak (less than 10% new) before undergoing periodic bâtonnage; there's no fining or filtration here either. The result is an understated and elegant Chardonnay with delicate white stone fruit flavors and a subtle element of oak-derived cashew nuts.

2020 Felton Road Riesling Bannockburn

93 Points

Drinking Window: 2020-2028

Generous and tender with its delicate nose of white talc, nectarine and red apple fruit. It is pure and offers excellent clarity. Medium-sweet in style (56g/L), it has a line of acidity that acts like a claw holding the wine together. Seductive and structural with a lengthy finish; open this at breakfast and it'll be gone before coffee break. (9% alcohol)

2020 Felton Road Dry Riesling

92 Points

Drinking Window: 2020-2027

This wild-fermented Riesling offers real presence with its swagger and sapidity. Expect attractive scents of white flowers and red apple. There's a burst of juicy acidity racing through the core, and although this is dry (6g/L) there are no holds barred. Plenty of substance offsets the firm line.

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER



Felton Road Bannockburn Central Otago Pinot Noir 2019

May, 22, 2021

★★★★★

The famous winery's "standard" pinot noir is a distinguished wine, blended from its four sites in the district. Barrel-aged, it is fragrant, deeply coloured and mouthfilling, with concentrated cherry, plum and spice flavours. Gently seasoned with nutty oak, it has supple tannins and a finely poised, harmonious finish. \$68