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Felton Road Wines (Central Otago, NZ)

2014 Pinot Noir – Bannockburn red 90

2014 ➤ Pinot Noir – Block 3 red 91

2014 ➤ Pinot Noir – Block 5 red 92

2014 ➤ Pinot Noir – Calvert red 90

2013 ➤ Pinot Noir – Cornish Point red 92

Felton Road may very well be New Zealand's most well-known pinot noir producer. The winery was purchased by Nigel Greening in 2000 and today the vineyards are managed by viticulturist Gareth King and the winemaking is under the supervision of Blair Walter. They utilize the summer management of a single vertical shoot positioned (VSP) canopy which they believe ensures even and early fruit maturity. Shoot thinning, shoot positioning, leaf plucking and bunch thinning are all carried out by hand as required. Inter-row planting of various cover crops are used to assist in controlling vine vigor and to improve soil health and general biodiversity. Mulch is also used in drier parts of the vineyard to help retain moisture, minimize the requirement for irrigation and to balance areas of lighter more free draining soils. Organic compost is made utilizing the winery waste, and organic cow manure and straw. Since 2002 the vineyards have been farmed organically and biodynamically, and in 2010 all three vineyards were awarded full Demeter certification. Pruning is carried out to leave the desired bud numbers thus ensuring moderate yields and to create an even, light-penetrable canopy. Irrigation is usually necessary during the later dry summer months. Soil moisture levels are monitored and water is applied only when necessary to maintain appropriate soil moisture levels. Bottled under screwcap. For more information contact 643.445.0885 or visit: www.feltonroad.com, (Young's Market, www.youngsmarket.com, CA; for a list of international distributors visit: www.feltonroad.com/distribution).

2014 Pinot Noir – Bannockburn: (14%). I like the exuberant freshness of the ever-so-mildly herbal tea inflected aromas of red currant, cherry and floral scents. There is excellent cut and punch to the utterly delicious middle weight flavors that possess fine detail on the well-balanced and lingering finish. This will need a few years to develop more depth but the balance is such that I have confidence it will happen with some patience. 90/2020+

2014 Pinot Noir – Block 3: (14%). A slightly ripe yet still wonderfully fresh, pure and cool nose features notes of red currant, plum, anise and rose petal along with an interesting hint of tangerine peel. There is a lovely mouth feel to the round, delicious and relatively generous medium-bodied flavors that possess a caressing mouth feel, all wrapped in a velvety, clean and solidly persistent finish. Like the Bannockburn this ever-so-slightly warm effort should repay mid-term cellaring and in particular to develop more depth. 91/2021+

2014 Pinot Noir – Block 5: (14%). Here too there a whisper of herbal tea character to the notably spicier aromas of cherry, raspberry, plum and mint. I like the mouth feel of the round, delicious and vibrant medium weight flavors that possess a caressing palate impression before culminating in a complex, balanced and dusty finale. In particular the textured finish is really quite interesting as it's almost chewy yet the mouth feel isn't robust or especially structured. 92/2022+

2014 Pinot Noir – Calvert: (14%). This is arguably the ripest wine in the range with its deeply pitched nose of plum, dark currant, earth and underbrush aromas that are trimmed in a bit of menthol. There is good richness and volume to the medium weight flavors that possess fine mid-palate concentration while displaying a rounded and caressing mouth feel on the complex, balanced and moderately dusty finish where a hint of youthful austerity can be found. 90/2021+

2013 Pinot Noir – Cornish Point: (14%). An attractively fresh, cool and elegant nose combines notes of red and blue pinot fruit, spice, rose petal and Asian-style tea nuances. There is good verve and fine delineation to the vibrant, complex and supple middle weight flavors that deliver excellent length on the dusty and once again youthfully austere finale. This lovely effort should reward from 6 to perhaps 9 years of cellar time. 92/2021+



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