



# FELTON ROAD

## Recent Reviews

### *Stylish chardonnay*

Jul 08, 2016 by Bob Campbell MW  
in Cellar Talk Wines

Felton Road Bannockburn Chardonnay 2015,  
Central Otago, NZD \$42.50

Fine, pure chardonnay with a great mouth-feel and a silken texture. Not overtly acidic but has enough acidity to make it gently refreshing. Oak is subtle but evident and classy. Restrained wine with underlying power. Mineral, citrus, white peach with a hint of nougat and cashew nut. (Screwcap)

Score: 96 ★★★★★ – view on BobCampbell.nz

Alcohol: 14%

Ageing: now to 2025

Food match: Risotto verde with crab & prawn, panna da cucina, saffron & pistachios

### Cellar Talk by Bob Campbell

Wines for Cellar Talk are selected for quality & value  
– never sponsored.

### *Wine Of The Week*

04.02.2016

Felton Road 2015 Bannockburn Riesling, Central Otago \$35.50

Felton Road is best known for its supremely elegant Pinot Noir, but in my view, Riesling deserves line honours. This very concentrated wine has green apple, rose petal and lime citrus flavours, with a suggestion of bush honey. It's quite sweet but beautifully balanced by juicy acidity to give the wine an exquisite tension. Terrific now but with the potential to transform into a more mellow and possibly complex wine with bottle age. (Screwcap)

Score: 96 ★★★★★

Alcohol: 8.5%

Ageing: now-2026

Food match: Knafeh – soft goat cheese mozzarella topped with crispy kadiief pastry drenched in hot syrup

## #RealReviews ALLIANCE

Felton Road 2015 Dry Riesling, Central Otago \$35.50

A truly dry Riesling with strong wet stone/mineral, lime and subtle rose petal flavours. I've always been a fan of this wine and have seen it evolve from an eye-wateringly austere wine to a more ethereal, approachable and delicate style. Seriously good wine with the potential to metamorphose into a very interesting wine after a decade or two.

Score: 95 ★★★★★

Alcohol: 12.5%

Ageing: 2016 to 2030



## Decanter

the world's best wine magazine

### Top 2014 Central Otago Pinot Noir

Decanter Staff

January 16, 2016

Central Otago has produced some outstanding wines in 2014, says Cameron Douglas MS, who explains the vintage and picks six top wines.



### Felton Road, Cornish Point Pinot Noir,

Bannockburn, Central Otago,  
New Zealand 2014

**Rating:** 19/20pts

Quietly fragrant with wild flowers, thyme and ripe red fruit, nutmeg and baking spices. Juicy, lush, fresh, precise tannins, firm acidity, long dry finish, abundantly textured, complex.

**Price:** UK – £22.50-£42.50 James Nicholson, Justerini & Brooks, Les Caves de Pyrène, Stone Vine & Sun, The Secret Cellar, WoodWinters. US – \$54.99 K&L Wines\*

**Drink:** 2017-2026 Alc 14%



## PinotFile

### 2014 Felton Road Block 3 Bannockburn Central Otago Pinot Noir

14.0% alc., \$69.99. Imported by Young's Market Co., Tustin, CA. 100% organic and biodynamic viticulture since vineyards first designed beginning in 1991.

This wine is taken from older vines in Block 3 of The Elms Vineyard, one of four properties farmed by Felton Road in the Bannockburn subregion of

Central Otago. 25% whole clusters, fermented with indigenous yeast, moderately long maceration on skins, aged 13 months in French oak barrels. Bottled unfiltered and unfiltered. Moderate reddish purple color in the glass. Engaging aromas of black cherry, sous-bois and tobacco. Beautifully composed, with a delicious attack of black cherry fruit accented with sweet oak and well-proportioned tannins. The finish has remarkable staying power. The oak overlay is not imposing and should further integrate over time. When tasted the following day from a previously opened and re-corked bottle, the wine was even more appealing. Easy to find superlatives for this gorgeous Pinot. Score: 94

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02.02.2016  
Bob Campbell

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## Felton Road

My tasting at Felton Road was one of the highlights of my visit to Central Otago at the end of January. Owner Nigel Greening and winemaker Blair Walter have been making some of New Zealand's richest, most complex and most complete Pinot Noirs going back to the early 2000s.

### FELTON ROAD Pinot Noir Block 5 2014 – 93+ points

“(40% of this wine is from the same deep silt soil as Block 3, the rest from clay and schist; vinified with 25% whole clusters and aged for 17 months in 35% new French oak): Medium-deep red. Pure but tight and reticent on the nose, hinting at raspberry, flowers and spices. In a richer, sweeter, more mouth-coating style than the 2014 Block 3 but less showy today even if it's sharply delineated. Showing more red fruits than black but this wonderfully fine-grained, tactile, soil-driven wine needs a year or two in bottle to express itself. Finishes ripe, sappy, savory and long, with a fine dusting of suave tannins and lingering sweetness. With extended aeration, this wine gained in sex appeal.”

### FELTON ROAD Pinot Noir Block 3 2014 – 93 points

“(from 22-year-old vines planted to Wadenswil and Pommard clones; vinified with 25% whole clusters): Good medium-deep red. Musky black raspberry and Damson plum aromas are complemented by coffee, dried herbs and complex soil tones and lifted by a floral topnote. At once brighter and tighter than the 2013 version, conveying a lovely light touch to its blackberry, dark cherry, herb and spice flavors. But this fine-grained, suavely tannic Pinot is broad, ripe, tactile and quite long. I love the combination of saline extract and floral lift, not to mention the wine's almost chocolatey ripeness.”

### FELTON ROAD Chardonnay Block 2 2014 – 92 points

“(100% Mendoza clone planted on pure schist and gravel soil in 1992; no new oak; bottled unfiltered and unfiltered): Bright yellow. Lemon curd, minerals, spices and underripe pineapple on the vibrant nose. Wonderfully fresh and complex on the palate, conveying terrific precision to the flavors of peach, lemon zest, lime, mirabelle, nettles, minerals, spices and crushed herbs. This savory, concentrated wine boasts lovely inner-mouth perfume and much more nuance than the basic Bannockburn bottling. Delivers superb density of texture without any weightiness. This wine was racked after 12 months but returned to barrel for another 5 before being bottle. Finishes tactile, firm and very long, with noteworthy energy. Really leaves the mouth vibrating. An outstanding, site-driven New Zealand Chardonnay.”

### FELTON ROAD Pinot Noir Cornish Point 2014 – 91 points

“(from vines planted in 2000 on soil featuring some high-pH pedogenic lime, which is essentially “soil-created” lime that has nothing to do with the marine origin of limestone): Healthy bright medium red. Musky aromas of strawberry, dark raspberry and coffee show are lifted by a rose petal element. Broader and less sharply delineated than the Calvert release but shows excellent fruit sweetness without any heaviness. (Walter describes Cornish Point as “normally a softer style of Pinot, and less

crunchy than the Calvert, owing to its proximity to the lake.”) Showing very well today owing to its fine-grained tannins and ripe, harmonious acidity. Finishes with subtle rising length.”

### FELTON ROAD Pinot Noir Calvert 2014 – 90 points

“(from a 2001 planting on deep silt soil that's not too different from Felton Road's Block 3; vinified with 22% whole clusters): Healthy medium red. Slightly darker and less open to inspection than the Bannockburn Pinot; more brooding on the nose but still more red fruit than black, with attractive floral/spicy lift. A rather tight, youthfully compact wine with a strong element of spicy underbrush and modest sweetness to its dark raspberry and strawberry flavors. Still a bit edgy owing to its firm acid/tannin spine and mineral underpinning but finishes with subtle length. This may ultimately merit an outstanding rating.”

### FELTON ROAD Pinot Noir 2014 – 90 points

“(vinified with 25% whole clusters, like all of these Pinots; aged for 11 months in barrel): Medium red. Alluring scents of strawberry, cherry and rose petal gained in perfume as the wine opened in the glass. A bit lean but juicy and energetic, showing a firm edge to the flavors of red fruits, flowers and spices. Delicious Pinot.”

### FELTON ROAD Chardonnay 2014 – 90 points

“(from vines planted in 2003 and 2006; includes Dijon clones; aged in just 10% new oak): Bright yellow. Subtle, alluring scents of lemon, minerals and fresh herbs. Brisk pineapple and mineral flavors show a complicating positive greenness, with hints of lemon curd, grapefruit and underripe tropical fruits giving the palate excellent energy for a wine that finished its malolactic fermentation. Winemaker Blair Walter does very little lees stirring.”

### FELTON ROAD Riesling 2015 – 89 points

“(8.5% alcohol with 74 grams of residual sugar): Pale straw-yellow color. Very ripe if restrained aromas of tropical fruits, ripe peach and exotic spices showed a note of candied ginger with air. Fairly sweet peach, nectarine and brown spice flavors are leavened by lively acidity, with the wine's tactile impression of extract also helping to buffer its residual sugar. Nicely concentrated and long. I wonder what this slightly high-toned fruit bomb would have tasted like with three degrees more alcohol and considerably less residual sweetness. But this is a very sexy drink, with excellent acidity.”

*From New Zealand's Pellucid Wines: More Light Than Heat by Stephen Tanzer - May 2016*



NEW ZEALAND

September 2016

### Felton Road Pinot Noir Central Otago Cornish Point 2014

95 points | \$80 | 85 cases imported | Red

Generous and expressive, with spiced plum, date bread and vanilla bean flavors that are rich and ripe, with fleshy, velvety tannins and plenty of clove and fresh earth details. Everything comes together on the finish, which lingers effortlessly. Drink now through 2026.

### Felton Road Pinot Noir Central Otago Calvert 2014

94 points | \$80 | 105 cases imported | Red

Plush and elegant, offering wild strawberry and raspberry flavors, with plenty of precision to the white pepper and fresh earth notes. Fresh and vibrant, showing intensity on the finish. Drink now through 2026- M.W.

### Felton Road Pinot Noir Central Otago Bannockburn 2014

93 points | \$65 | 289 cases imported | Red

Bay leaf, juniper and forest floor notes add an intriguing, fresh green edge to the juicy cherry and cranberry flavors, lingering with a note of dried lavender. Drink now through 2026.- M.W.

### Felton Road Pinot Noir Central Otago Block 5 2014

93 points | \$100 | 31 cases imported | Red

Rich and plush, with fleshy cherry and plum flavors that have plenty of charm, offering details of vanilla custard, nutmeg and white pepper. Drink now through 2026- M.W.

From New Zealand.—M.W.