



# FELTON ROAD

## Recent Reviews

### GOURMET TRAVELLER

April / May 2015

**98** ★★★★★  
**2013 Felton Road Block 5 Pinot Noir,**  
**Central Otago, A\$110/NZ\$92**

A fragrant nose with the scent of dark berries, violet and wildflowers. Concentrated palate with a stronger fruit focus together with a savoury, spicy influence. A smooth, rich texture and impressive power on the finish.

**97** ★★★★★  
**2013 Felton Road Block 2 Chardonnay,**  
**Central Otago, A\$65/NZ\$52**

This is a dense, rich and complex wine that's deliciously drinkable now but will offer much more with extra bottle-age. A sophisticated and powerful wine that gives a strong nod in the direction of Burgundy.



**BOB CAMPBELL**

master of wine

### A LEGEND

**Felton Road 2014 Block 1 Riesling,**  
Central Otago \$44

Concentrated Riesling with a silken texture and pronounced floral, mineral and citrus flavours. The wine is technically sweet but appears to me to be medium thanks, perhaps, to the influence of seductively soft acidity. A truly powerful Riesling with an extraordinary lengthy finish. This wine has a proven reputation for longevity.

97/100 ★★★★★

Cellar Talk May 5, 2015



### Decanter

the world's best wine magazine

**Felton Road Pinot Noir Bannockburn 2013**

(94 points)

Hedonistic Pinot nose: layers of floral spice, lovely, quite ripe fruit, something herbal and savoury, too; supple, with dark fruit flavours to the fore. Will reward cellaring. Drink 2015-2022.

**Felton Road Cornish Point Pinot Noir**  
**Bannockburn 2013**

(90 points)

Ripe aromas of dark cherries and summer berries, interwoven with smoky oak; tannins more or less integrated. Drink soon. Drink 2016-2020.

Peter McCombie MW, June 2015



### THE WINE FRONT

**Felton Road Block 1 Riesling 2014**

Holds 68 grams residual sugar like a perfectly gloved, diving catch to a wicket keeper.

Electric in acidity, sweetness honed to needle-thrust and driving across the palate, but never overwhelming. Purity of green apple fruit, lemongrass, ginger. Frisky and dancing across the palate. Pure energy, pure drinkability. Fantastic. Alcohol: 11%; Price: \$50; Closure: Screwcap; Drink: 2015-2030

Mike Bennie

Winefront, posted February 9, 2015



**Felton Road Bannockburn Pinot Noir 2014**

93+ points

How quickly they come around, seems like only yesterday I was tasting the 2013. For Pinot Fanciers, I reckon you either really like Central Otago, or you're not too fussed. Also acknowledge increasing diversity of style, sub-regionality, older vines and better understanding of site and season with an upward swing in quality within the region.

Rich cherry pie, thyme, fennel, spice and meaty complexity. Medium bodied, but plush with juicy cherry, some meaty reductive flavours, fleshy feel, silty tannin and mineral feel, balanced but firm acidity and again, that juicy almost tinned cherry flavour on a pretty long finish. Given a day's grace and re-taste, the wine pulled more savoury and less flamboyant, auguring well for the future. Good release here.

Gary Walsh,

Winefront, posted May 29, 2015

### THE AGE wine guide

02.12.14

huon hooke

### Indulge Yourself

**Felton Road Bannockburn Pinot Noir,**

**Central Otago 2013 \$70**

Score 94; Value Good

The deep colour, powerful aroma and flavour, high extract and ample tannins are typical of this maker and region. It's ripe and intense, with spice and dried herb aromas. An impressive pinot just starting out (13.5 per cent alcohol.)

Ageing Drink now to 2024.

Food Roasted duck breast

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**2014 Felton Road Bannockburn Pinot Noir**

It is clear from the very first sip that 2014 is a very successful vintage for Felton Road. This Estate (Bannockburn) cuvée is typically smooth, flavour-packed and yet tender already on the palate. The nose is a mass of swirling red and black berry fruits and there is a heavenly whisper of carpentry in the distance reminding you that the oak selection here is deliberately sensitive but also well-seasoned. This is a precocious wine, but I don't doubt that it will shut up shop soon and slumber for perhaps a year, maybe less, while it aligns its chakra, so try not to dive in too soon. One of the problems with wines as balanced and honed as this is that they flatter and deceive. Exercise patience and the rewards are always greater. 18+/20

**2014 Felton Road Cornish Point Pinot Noir**

This is a much darker wine than the Bannockburn and it is more closed and brooding, too. There is more spice and more plum here and it seems more daring and less predictable than its diminutive sibling. The black cherry notes are particularly alluring and I am convinced that this is going to be one of the most successful Cornish Points to date. Alongside the ebullience is more polish and precision. This is a glamorous Pinot and it knows it. I don't imagine it will hibernate for anything like as long as the Bannockburn given that fact that it already adores being in the limelight. The only thing from stopping you drinking it early is the level of tannins, which is bold and well-judged. This should keep the wolf from the door for a couple of years at least. I am suitably impressed. 18.5+/20

**2014 Felton Road Block 3 Pinot Noir**

With a little more structure but none of the overt juiciness of the other two wines, Block 3 is a much more thoughtful creature. There is considerable structure here and it is quite different to the Bannockburn and Cornish Point wines in the tempo and delivery of its wares. This is potentially a great wine. It is the first release where I feel the Village, Premier Cru, Grand Cru hierarchy looming into view at Felton Road. Before I was stuck in Village, Premier, Premier Plus mode. The fruit here is noticeably grander than in the other two wines, it is also wilder and more pagan. The oak is more liberally applied and it needs this framework on which to drape its kaleidoscopic fruit. I urge you not to touch this wine for at least five years because at the moment equal and opposite forces are pulling and pushing the detailed Pinot fruit in all directions. When this maelstrom settles I feel confident that you will experience a defining wine in the history of this illustrious estate. 19+/20

**It's A Mad, Mad, Mad, MADD World of Pinot Noir**

**Felton Road 2013 Bannockburn Central Otago.**

Felton Road is one of the great estates in New Zealand for Pinot Noir, the inspiration for so many others to believe in Central Otago as a great Pinot Noir appellation. I hadn't tasted one of their wines in many years, but one sniff of this wine and I flipped all over again. It's a red fruit nose, but laced with a bit of earthiness, and a clear streak of savouriness, that umami thing. If you ever wonder what wine writers mean by saying a wine has "great energy," or as the French say, "nervosité," just taste this Felton Road. It's a living thing on your tongue, and who doesn't like that? Truly gorgeous to drink, the red fruit is luscious, the wine vibrates beauty, and the finish is lingering and harmonious. Cool wine.

*Ron Washam writes the HoseMaster of Wine*

*Blog entry following visit to World of Pinot Noir event in the USA, Thursday, March 26, 2015*

**Decanter**  
the world's best wine magazine

**EXPERTS CHOICE**

Dubbed 'the vintage of a generation', the best 2013 Pinot Noirs show a freshness and structure that balances the country's typical fruitiness, says *Peter McCombie MW*



**Felton Road, Pinot Noir**

**Bannockburn, Central Otago** 18.25 (94) £26-£40

Hedonistic Pinot nose: layers of floral spice, lovely, quite ripe fruit, something herbal and savoury too; supple, with dark fruit flavours to the fore. Will reward cellaring. Drink 2015-2022 Alc 13.5%

**Felton Road, Cornish Point, Pinot Noir Bannockburn, Central Otago**

17 (90) £30-£48

Ripe aromas of dark cherries and summer berries, interwoven with smoky oak; tannins more or less integrated. Drink soon. Drink 2016-2020 Alc 14%

**weekender**

**HOME&GARDEN**



FAMOUS: The Oyster Bay winery in Marlborough.

**Wines of the Long White Cloud**

**H**AIL the return of the king, and drink more riesling, especially from Central Otago. The hot days and cool nights serve this other Alsatian aromatic well on the southern 45th parallel. New Zealand only exports 0.5 per cent of this best-kept secret, but there are a few sharp-witted sommeliers and bottle shops out there that are smart enough to list this on their... um, lists. Felton Road just happens to be the same name as the winery that makes one of Central Otago's best examples of a dry-style riesling. Not exactly bone-dry, but certainly close, the Felton Road, 2013 Dry Riesling is an exercise in cool refreshment and snow melt vitality. Pink Lady apple and tropical fruit aromatics burst out above white nectarine crunch and chalky minerality. Such delicious rediscovery should be accompanied by a hot summer's day, poolside with fresh seafood. **Felton Road, Dry Riesling, Central Otago, 2013, \$37.**



New Zealand has been quietly building up its reputation for producing some of the world's best wines, writes **DANIEL HONAN**.

Newcastle Herald WEEKENDER PAGE 18 Saturday, November 29, 2014

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