



FELTON ROAD

Recent Reviews



Lisa Perrotti-Brown
October 2013

Felton Road 2012 Pinot Noir Block 3

93+ points

Medium ruby-purple-colored, the 2012 Block 3 Pinot Noir is a little closed at this youthful moment yet reveals subtle notes of mulberries and black cherries with underlying suggestions of damp earth, aniseed, cloves and cedar. Medium-bodied and very taut at this stage, it delivers a great intensity of fruit while remaining elegantly styled by a lively acid backbone and low to medium level of fine tannins. It finishes with great length. Drink it 2015 to 2022+.

Felton Road 2011 Pinot Noir Block 5

93+ points

Medium ruby-colored, the 2011 Block 5 Pinot Noir shows slowly evolving notes of kirsch, red currant jelly and dried cranberries with hints of sage, fallen leaves and mossy bark. Full-bodied with a great concentration of complex, layered fruit just starting to emerge, it is framed by enlivening acidity and a medium to firm level of grainy tannins and finishes with very good persistence. Drink it now to 2020+.

Felton Road 2011 Pinot Noir Cornish Point

92 points

Medium ruby-purple in color, the 2012 Cornish Point Pinot Noir is scented of red plums, blackberries and wild blueberries with touches of dark chocolate, Szechuan pepper and black tea. Full-bodied and richly fruited in the mouth, it has a solid backbone of medium to firm silky tannins and crisp acid, finished with great length. Drink it now to 2021+.

Felton Road 2012 Pinot Noir Calvert

91 points

Medium to deep ruby-purple in color, the 2012 Calvert Pinot Noir flaunts a perfumed nose of lavender and rose petals over a core of kirsch, mulberries and dried Provence herbs, plus a whiff of underbrush. Medium-bodied and tightly knit, it has exciting vibrancy in the mouth at this youthful stage with a medium level of grainy tannins and refreshing acid to support, finishing with great persistence. Drink it 2014 to 2020+.

Felton Road 2012 Bannockburn Pinot Noir

91 points

Medium ruby-purple-colored, the 2012 Bannockburn Pinot Noir opens with attractive aromas of black cherries and black raspberries and underlying violet, aniseed and charcoal suggestions. Medium-bodied with plenty of mouth-filling black and red berry flavors, it is structured with a medium level of finely grained tannins and crisp acid before finishing with good length. Drink it now to 2018+.

Felton Road 2011 Chardonnay Block 2

93+ points

The 2011 Block 2 Chardonnay offers a wonderful array of savory and citrus notes redolent of apricots, pink grapefruit and orange blossoms with suggestions of cashews, baker's yeast, butterscotch and allspice. Medium-bodied and still very tightly knit in the mouth, it has layers of stone fruit, nut and spice flavors supported by a seamless line of acid, and a finish with great length. Drink it now to 2019+.

Felton Road 2012 Chardonnay

92 points

Opening with a pretty nose of peach blossoms, spiced apple slices and honeysuckle with nuances of meal, lightly buttered toast and preserved ginger the 2012 Chardonnay is medium to full-bodied with a youthful palate already showing great poise with plenty of stone fruit, savory and toasty flavors enlivened by a refreshing acid line before finishing with satisfying persistence. Drink it now to 2018+.

Felton Road 2012 Riesling Block 1

91 points

The 2012 Block 1 Riesling presents a nose that is a little youthfully mute yet still offers delicate wafts of peach blossoms, fresh grapefruit and lemongrass, plus hints of jasmine and lime zest. Medium-sweet and light-bodied in style with a lower level of alcohol (8.5%), it is beautifully concentrated on the palate with a long, honeyed-lemon finish. Drink it now to 2020+.

Felton Road 2012 Riesling

90 points

Scented of fresh lemonade and lime juice with suggestions of grapefruit and chalk dust, the medium sweet, light-bodied 2012 Riesling is made to a lower alcohol style (8.5% declared) and offers plenty of zip on the palate through to a very long and lively finish. Drink it now to 2019+.

Felton Road 2012 Riesling Block 1

91 points

With lovely lime cordial, honeysuckle and mandarin peel notes overlaying an undercurrent of white peaches and star anise, the 2012 Dry Riesling is light-bodied, dry and wonderfully crisp in the mouth, showing great intensity and tension before finishing long and invigorating. Approachable now, it should drink nicely to 2020+.

WORDS **TYSON STELZER**

WHOLE IN ONE

FELTON ROAD

Block 3 Pinot Noir 2012 \$110

consummately controlled, deeply exotic, powerfully textural and monumentally enduring.

An idyllic vintage yielded fruit depth to match 25 per cent whole bunches, arising as one of the finest wines ever to emerge from New Zealand. It is

APRIL 2014 **QANTAS 159**

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

Pinot: It's Classified Information



WILL LYONS'S TOP 10 NEW ZEALAND PINOT NOIRS

2011 FELTON ROAD BLOCK 3 *Central Otago, South Island* Felton Road is synonymous with Central Otago Pinot Noir, with many arguing it is one of the best. Dark crimson, this displayed appealing ripe fruit. But it was the palate that exploded with intensity, acidity and plenty of bite. Quite sensational.

June 6, 2013

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Felton Road Dry Riesling 2013

\$28

Felton reports that it's easier to sell a dry than a sweet riesling in New Zealand, though this is little more than one-third the production volume of its sweeter "Bannockburn" label. The ripe generosity of 2013 is expressed in grapefruit and orange notes, contrasting pretty lemon blossom, tight acid profile and finely textured, mineral structure. A vintage of excellent length and mouth feel. \$31 at Wine Box Warehouse.

Drink: 2014-2018

93 points



Felton Road Bannockburn Riesling 2013

\$28

This label represents more than two-thirds of Felton's riesling production and 2013 is a particularly generous edition. Layers of white peach, mandarin peel and ginger presence are streamlined by pretty lemon blossom aromatics and hints of fennel and granny smith apple. Beautifully fine acidity and mineral structure are intricately balanced by well-gauged sweetness (56g/L). \$30 at WineStar.

Drink: 2014-2018

94 points



Felton Road Block 1 Riesling 2013

\$37

There is a wonderful interplay between sweetness, acidity and mineral texture in the great rieslings of the world, and Felton Road manages to achieve this with delightful finesse. 73g/L of residual sweetness meshes seamlessly with finely mineral texture and elegant lemon blossom notes. \$44 at Winecave.

Drink: 2014-2023

95 points



James Halliday,
The Australian,
11 August 2013

2012 Felton Road Bannockburn Pinot Noir

95 Points

Bright, clear colour; super-fragrant cherry, plum and spice aromas all seek to dominate the bouquet, but none succeed, with a hint of oak in the background. The palate has exceptional texture and length, 30% whole bunch, 30% new oak.

2012 Felton Road Calvert Pinot Noir

96 Points

The deepest colour of all four Felton Road 2012 pinot releases, setting the scene for a slightly atypical wine; the complex bouquet has a range of sage, forest and dark spice aromas, with black cherry on the fore-palate, then a complete change of pace with lift and brightness on the back palate; raspberry and red cherry fruit wrapped in a web of fine but persistent tannins.

2012 Felton Road Bannockburn Chardonnay

95 Points

White peach and grapefruit drive the bouquet and palate, 10 per cent new oak totally absorbed by the fruit. Long, mineral acidity cleanses the mouth, leaving the finish fresh. 100 per cent malolactic fermentation, and neither fined nor filtered.

THE AGE wine guide ralph kyte-powell

Felton Road Chardonnay Bannockburn 2012

Central Otago Chardonnay at its best. Light pongy notes fade with air, revealing dusty mealy dimensions to a core of peachy fruit and classy oak. The silky palate has ample flesh, complex flavour and a long tangy ending (screwcap; 14% alcohol).

Ageing: Drink over four years.

Food ideas: Salmon and swordfish.

February 2014

NEW ZEALAND LISTENER

WINE OF THE WEEK Felton Road Bannockburn Central Otago Chardonnay 2012

Made from hand-picked, biodynamic - certified grapes and bottled unfined and unfiltered, with a "relatively conventional" level of preservative SO₂, this delicious wine has ripe peachy, citrusy flavours and shows lovely vibrancy and depth. \$36

Michael Cooper, September 7 2013

Fun!

Wine drinkers have never had it so good, says **Philip Rich** as he reveals his best wines of the year.



Australian
Financial
Review
29 Nov 2013

Felton Road Block 3 2012

Central Otago, New Zealand
\$120

Another super wine from one of the world's great pinot producers, there's a complexity and finesse here that you don't always find in Central Otago. With 17 vintages under his belt, winemaker Blair Walter is big on vine age and biodynamics, giving him the confidence to pick earlier. Brightly but not densely coloured, it features superb purity of pinot fruit together with Asian spices, while the palate is simultaneously refreshing, structured and long. Firm but supple tannins suggest this is built for the long haul – that's if you can keep your hands off it in the meantime.

TASTE THIS



Felton Road Bannockburn Riesling 2013 (Central Otago) \$36; 9.5%

★★★★★

Everyone knows about Felton Road's pinot noir, but this riesling deserves attention, too. Bright and floral, with a bouquet of bath salts, lemon and tropical fruit characters. There's no aromatic hint of the residual sugar that awaits – 56 grams per litre – until it hits the sugar receptors on the tip of the tongue. The superb balance deletes any over-sweet memory. Grippy, smooth and with a lemon acid line, there's refreshment as well as luxury texture from the high sugar levels.
Food match \ Munster cheese