

# BURGHOUND.COM®

## THE ULTIMATE BURGUNDY REFERENCE

### Felton Road Wines (Central Otago, NZ)

|      |                            |     |    |
|------|----------------------------|-----|----|
| 2011 | Pinot Noir - Bannockburn   | red | 90 |
| 2011 | Pinot Noir - Block 3       | red | 90 |
| 2009 | Pinot Noir - Bannockburn   | red | 89 |
| 2009 | Pinot Noir - Block 3       | red | 90 |
| 2009 | Pinot Noir - Calvert       | red | 91 |
| 2009 | Pinot Noir - Cornish Point | red | 92 |
| 2008 | Pinot Noir - Block 5       | red | 91 |

Felton Road may very well be New Zealand's most famous 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](http://www.feltonroad.com)

**2011 Pinot Noir - Bannockburn:** (5,167 cases, SRP NZ \$57, US \$40-50, 14.5%). A pleasingly fresh nose displays cool and pure red pinot fruit, cherry and gentle floral whispers. There is plenty of verve to the delicious and intense flavors that are shaped by fine-grained tannins that contribute significantly to the refined mouth feel of the lingering finish. This does a slow but sure build from the mid-palate back to the impeccably well-balanced finish. Lovely. 90/2018+

**2011 Pinot Noir - Block 3:** (661 cases, SRP NZ \$89, US \$70-80, 14%). Here too there is lovely aromatic complexity to the very fresh red pinot fruit and spice aromas that exhibit the barest hint of vegetal character. There is a beguiling mouth feel to the cool and admirably pure middle weight flavors that possess a liting mouth feel thanks to the well-integrated structure on the dusty, lacy and well-balanced finish. Good stuff. 90/2017+

**2009 Pinot Noir - Bannockburn:** (14%). A ripe, fresh and solidly complex nose features a broad range of scents that include both red and dark berries, plum and violet nuances. There is good verve to the fleshy yet reasonably well-detailed middle weight flavors that possess a very mild hint of vegetal character on the balanced, clean and persistent finish. While this could certainly be enjoyed now it is still clearly on the way up. 89/2016+

**2009 Pinot Noir - Block 3:** (14%). There are hints of menthol and a smoky character to the fresh and well-layered aromas of red pinot, dark berries and wisps of soft floral nuances. The round, generous and pleasingly textured medium weight flavors also display a discreet vegetal character on the strikingly long and well-balanced finish. 90/2017+

**2009 Pinot Noir - Calvert:** (14.5%). A cool, pure and restrained nose is impressively elegant with its essence of red pinot fruit that also exhibits smoky hints. There is a velvety mouth feel to the generous, round and rich flavors that are shaped by very fine-grained tannins on the beautifully well-balanced finish where a touch of youthful austerity is in evidence. Lovely. 91/2017+

**2009 Pinot Noir - Cornish Point:** (14.5%). An intensely floral nose of ultra-fresh red berries and a hint of crushed leaves leads to energetic and exquisitely well-detailed middle weight flavors that are supported by ripe and well-integrated tannins, all wrapped in a superbly balanced finish that delivers excellent persistence. The balance is so good that this delicious effort could certainly be enjoyed now but I would counsel holding it for a few more years first as a bit of patience should be amply rewarded. 92/2017+

**2008 Pinot Noir - Block 5:** (14%). A restrained and gorgeously layered nose combines a subtle array of red pit fruits, spice and floral elements. The refined and very pure medium-bodied flavors are also shaped by impressively fine tannins and a firm but not aggressive acid spine on the dusty and mouth coating finish. This should also benefit from a few years of cellar time, but for those with limited patience this is already lovely. 91/2016+