

Stephen Tanzer's

Winophilia



Winophilia Picks

2009 Felton Road Wines Pinot Noir Bannockburn Central Otago

Why should you care?

The growth in popularity of New Zealand pinot noir has been driven over the past decade by the exciting Central Otago growing region, the world's southernmost wine region as well as New Zealand's highest-altitude growing area and its most continental. Central Otago has earned a reputation for seductively rich, fruit-driven pinots with firm balancing acidity, thanks to a long growing season and pronounced diurnal temperature variation. Felton Road, located in the favored Bannockburn sub-region, is one of New Zealand's elite pinot producers: their vineyards on silty, sandy loam ripen relatively early thanks to a warm, dry, protected microclimate.

What does it taste like?

This blend of Felton Road's vineyards is a classic example of Bannockburn pinot. The 2009, with its perfumed aromas of raspberry, minerals, white pepper and rose petal, is about as close to a Chambolle-Musigny as New Zealand pinot can be. Boasting serious richness, its superb inner-mouth energy and spicy, peppery tannins also give it a wonderfully tangy, sappy quality. It's actually Felton Road's *least* expensive pinot but it may also be the most complete.

How much does it cost, and where can you find it?

\$US50; [Wilson Daniels Ltd.](#), St. Helena, CA.

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