

Halliday



Dave Brookes

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Felton Road Block 3 Pinot Noir 2022 97-Gold

Of the two 'Block' wines, it's the Block 3 that holds its gaze the longest with its wild eyes. 25% whole clusters in play here with their characteristic amaro-esque shading and textural sway. It's all plums and cherries, cut with spice, lap cheong, soy, pomegranate, mountain herbs, citrus blossom, grapefruit pith and earth. Supple, wonderfully complex and pure with terrific length of flavour, powdered, schisty tannins and mineral-laden cadence, finishing juicy and vital. Just lovely.

Felton Road MacMuir Pinot Noir 2022 95-Gold

Concentrated and showing some aromatic heft with fruit notes of dark cherry, raspberry coulis, plum and dried cranberry with hints of pomegranate, mountain herbs, dried meats, anise, thyme and violet top notes. I love the presence and sinewy flow to this wine, fine-grained tannins gently tugging at the roof of the mouth, its travel elegant with a sense of restrained horsepower. Plenty of cellaring upside here.

Felton Road Cornish Point Pinot Noir 2022, 94-Silver

Quite a subtle and filigreed aromatic profile here. Lavender and thyme-etched raspberry and red cherry tones with hints of dried wildflowers, spice, sandalwood, rosehip, cold tea, mountain herbs, cinnamon and softly-spoken oak. Pure and instantly endearing on the palate with its core of ripe fruit, pippy tannins and sapid, sour-cherry acidity. Just the right amount of sinew and a long draw of flavour.

Felton Road Block 5 Pinot Noir 2022 97-Gold

There is a fineness and sense of grace to the 2022 Block 5 release. It lacks the upfront allure of some of the other Felton Road pinots; it speaks more to fineness of detail and filigreed nuance than upfront gratification. It's in wonderful form with pristine red berry and raspberry fruits, the seasoning of spice and oak just so, top notes of wild flowers and cranberry, deeper tones of dried meats, bergamot and clove oil further in the distance. It travels sleek and precise across the palate with fine-grained tannin and vital minerality. It's an excellent, finely-honed release and just lovely drinking.

Felton Road Calvert Pinot Noir 2022 96-Gold

Such a pretty wine with its sappy-edged fruit aromas of pure red cherry, raspberry and redcurrant underscored with hints of pomegranate, rosehip, mountain herbs, almond blossom, violets and sage with flashes of shoyu and charcuterie. Very much a story of flow and elegance, all elements at concert pitch and playing from the same sheet with energy and verve. The interplay between the supple fruit, fine tannin and acidity provides great drinking and promise over the medium-term.

Felton Road Pinot Noir 2022 95-Gold

This 'best of' blend of four vineyards; Cornish Point, Calvert, MacMuir and The Elms, instantly lures you in with aromas of wild strawberry, red and dark cherries and juicy plum tones. Hints of violets, pomegranate, vanilla, star anise, Chinese BBQ shop, mountain herbs and spice. Succulent and finely structured, it's a wine that gives a lot, both in flavour and inherent enjoyment with its infectious, sapid energy and toothsome, fine tannin architecture.

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Felton Road Block 2 Chardonnay 2022 96-Gold

The 2022 Block 2 chardonnay leads in with aromas of tight white peach and yellow stone fruits, along with green apple, citrus fruits, soft spice, nougat, grilled nuts, white flowers, crushed river stone and a curious whiff of chilled chicken broth. Tight and detailed with a beautifully taut palate shape and sense of clarity. Just a squeak of phenolics lends a wonderful textural aspect and the wine accelerates away on rails of minerally acidity, finishing savoury, stony and packed with umami

Felton Road Block 6 Chardonnay 2022 95-Gold

Aromatically, the Block 6 comes across as a little more concentrated than its Block 2 stablemate, with more expressive citrus, peach and yellow plum fruit tones. Soft spice, yellow flowers and curls of clotted cream, ginger, sourdough and river-stone. Ditto on the palate. There is a nice swell of fleshy stone-fruits, some apple danish and softly spiced oak nuance with just a wee tweak of phenolic texture on the focused, savoury finish.

Felton Road Chardonnay 2022 94-Silver

Notes of fleshy white peach and citrus fruits with hints of soft spice, clotted cream, white flowers, green apple skin, crushed river stone, pine nuts and softly spoken oak. These characters transpose neatly over onto the palate which shows a slick, textural flow while remaining taut with a high tensile acid cadence and plenty of carry, clarity and nervy energy.

Felton Road Block 1 Riesling 2023 96-Gold

There is a depth of flavour here that speaks clearly of bloodline and place. Impeccably pure and driven with flavours of fleshy lime, white peach and a liminal apricot nuance. Hints of wildflowers on river banks, green apple skin, struck flint, pear drops and stone. Again, the residual sugar is 63g/L but the acidity tempers that somewhat and at 9% alcohol, we are at levels that the Germans wisely decree suitable for 'breakfast wines'. It really is a beautiful wine, whether drinking now or, I'm sure, when you drag it out of the cellar in 20 years' time.

Felton Road Riesling 2023 96-Gold

I guess we lean towards Europe when describing wines like this. The reference to Spätlese probably shines with use, but the wine's 59g/L of RS and initial struck-flint whiff of reduction do remind me of the style, so I guess I'll add to that patina. It's less uptight than the Germans, though. There is a generosity here; less dry extract, more slinky, peachy purity. Limey too and dripping with minerally chutzpah, finishing succulent, tangy and with pitch-perfect tension. A cracker.

Felton Road Riesling 2023 95-Gold

The dance between high tensile focus and fruit concentration is done beautifully here. Minerality and cadence is a leitmotif with this wine. Notes of white peach, lime, grapefruit, crushed river-stone, lemongrass, lemon barley water, Christmas lily and lime cordial. There's a wonderful tubular palate shape, the flavours pulling across the tongue at pace, before coalescing and flowing seamlessly off into the distance, dry and slatey. Just lovely.