



WINE OF THE WEEK NZ

FELTON ROAD WINES BLOCK 3 PINOT NOIR 2023

97/100 ★★★★★ TOP RANK

Drink: 2025-2044

Food: five-spice roasted quail with XO fried rice

Unlike further north, Central Otago was not badly affected by the cyclones of 2023. The rains which arrived in March are generally seen as beneficial after a warm and dry early season. The thoughtful and sympathetic adjustments made every year at Felton Road continue to deliver subtle incremental improvements to the wine with each new vintage, but the 2023 stands out as particularly accomplished and is absolutely worth a spot in your cellar.

Restrained wood with floral, dried herb and mineral complexity over a core of concentrated black fruit. Unquestionable elegance married to remarkable power, the intensely flavoursome palate unfolds in stages of savoury, fruit and floral, all kept in check by reasonably firm, ripe tannins with flashes of rosemary. Astounding complexity in a poised package. Medium-bodied but very long, this wine is all about the back-palate; there is plenty of matter here and it's currently very young. Despite the sheer concentration in evidence, this has impeccable balance and should age gracefully over the coming decade without losing its finesse.