



Anne Krebiehl MW January 5, 2023

Felton Road: 12 wines to seek out

Felton Road, Block 3 Pinot Noir, Central Otago, NZ 2021

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2040 **97** POINTS

A lovely note of raspberry leaf and peony petal floats above pure and tart notes of crushed blackberry on the nose while black pepper shimmers. The palate is wonderfully crunchy, has echoes of smoke and fine tannins. Red fruit peeks through on the midpalate while the finish echoes hauntingly with peony and pepper. 13 months in 25% new French oak barrels.

Felton Road, Block 5 Pinot Noir, Central Otago, NZ 2021

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2040 **97** POINTS

Crushed berry, Ceylon tea leaves and white pepper make for a brooding and alluring nose. The palate takes up this aromatic theme, enabled by a very fine, clear streak of bright acidity. A frame of graceful, firm tannin lends structure to this elegant wine. Really poised, long and aromatic. Matured in just 25% of new French oak for 16 months.

Felton Road, MacMuir Pinot Noir, Central Otago, NZ 2021

Drinking Window: 2026 - 2040 **95** POINTS

Bright cherry juiciness on the nose comes with notes of crushed red and black berries, followed by toast and pepper. The palate redoubles on this spiciness and comes with firm but fine tannins that makes this come across as muscular and bold. This needs bottle age. The first release of this vineyard and the wine spent 13 months in French oak of which a quarter was new.

Felton Road, Calvert Pinot Noir, Central Otago, NZ 2021

Drinking Window: 2022 - 2040 **94** POINTS

Just a hint of smoke pops up on the nose, along with red cherry and a promise of richness. More air brings something florally scented. There is much concentration and a really fine frame of tannins, this is bold with ripe, juicy cherry fruit and full of verve with very structured tannins. The vines were 20 years old, and the wine spent 16 months in 25% new French oak.

Felton Road, Cornish Point Pinot Noir, Central Otago, NZ 2021

Drinking Window: 2024 - 2040 **96** POINTS

Distant wood smoke, a flicker of nettle and lovely, tart blackberry fruit make for an aromatic nose. The palate comes in with exquisite freshness and a firm structure. Typically for Cornish Point, aromatic high jinks highlight the lovely juiciness. The finish comes with an echo of smoke and apple pip. Totally mouthwatering. This spent 13 months in 25% new French oak.

Felton Road, Bannockburn Pinot Noir, Central Otago, NZ 2021

Drinking Window: 2022 - 2032 **92** POINTS

A hint of smokiness and toast appears first, still with the echo of slight reduction. The fine web of tannins on the palate holds oak as well as surprisingly dark fruit. Very juicy, fruity and bold, this is Felton Road's estate Pinot Noir, with just 25% new oak.

Felton Road, Block 2 Chardonnay, Central Otago, NZ 2021

Drinking Window: 2022 - 2035 **95** POINTS

A sense of lemon zest comes with notions of wet pebble and alluring note of fresh, green apple. The palate conveys brisk freshness first and foremost that allows pure, ripe lemon to shine. A mouthwatering, engaging, appetising Chardonnay with much texture and no heaviness at all. Finest refreshment - made without any new oak.

Felton Road, Block 6 Chardonnay, Central Otago, NZ 2021

Drinking Window: 2022 - 2035 **94** POINTS

A subtle zestiness is rather breezy on the nose, coming with a subtle edge of dried corn husk. A delicious flicker of smoke opens the palate. A textural element of pith and mouth-watering freshness make this very appetising, more air and temperature reveals notes of tangerine, beguiling with this riper, even more aromatic spectrum of citrus. Absolutely unclouded by new oak.

Felton Road, Bannockburn Chardonnay, Central Otago, NZ 2021

Drinking Window: 2022 - 2035 **93** POINTS

Made from Cornish Point and Elms fruit. A distant touch of toasted hazelnut is gentle on the nose. Lemon and notes of polenta appear later. The palate seems lithe despite its alcoholic heft of 14%, there seems to be a wonderful translucency that speaks of brilliant sunshine and brisk coolness. Texturally this reveals a light touch and masterful use of oak that allows lemon above all to shine through. Just 5% of oak was new - how beautiful.

Felton Road, Block 1 Riesling, Central Otago, NZ 2021

Drinking Window: 2022 - 2050 **94** POINTS

White currant, lime zest and overtones of pineapple are initially shy on the nose but become more lifted and aromatic with more air. The palate holds gentle yet luscious sweetness (67 g/l) that trails overtones of lanolin. But all this smooth richness is pervaded by a killer streak of lime acidity, lending exquisite balance and zesty length.

Felton Road, Bannockburn Riesling, Central Otago, NZ 2021

Drinking Window: 2022 - 2050 **94** POINTS

Made from the fruit of 30-year old vines, this comes with a slight lift of lanolin that carries notions of ripe Williams pear alongside a touch of lime. The palate seems almost melodious with its juicy sweetness (64 g/l) that is immediately tamed by a vein of lime zestiness and backed by pithy texture. This strikes a most appetising balance and almost has an echo of chamomile tisane alongside the citrus pith on the finish.

Felton Road, Dry Riesling, Central Otago, NZ, 2021

Drinking Window: 2022 - 2050 **93** POINTS

This is the driest Riesling in the Felton range with just 5 g/l of residual sweetness. Pear juice, bright, crisp and tart green apple make up the nose with overtones of lanolin and wax. The palate shows lovely ripeness, total juiciness and much zest. A dried citrus peel richness rounds things out while pithiness lends texture and length.