



Erin Larkin, 15 December 2023

Block 5 Pinot Noir 2022

Rating - 95

Drink Date – 2023-2037

The 2022 Block 5 Pinot Noir leads with pronounced oak on the nose, but it's a gently dusty, raw cocoa, sandalwood sort of character and does not overwhelm the fruit. In the mouth, the fruit is spicy and full, and it behaves in a most attractive fashion. The wine enters gently and plumes through the mid-palate and finish for an expansive, voluminous experience. A wonderful wine, clearly with the most pronounced presence in the lineup of 2022 Pinots in front of me today. Excellent. 14% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.

Calvert Pinot Noir 2022

Rating - 94+

Drink Date – 2023-2036

The 2022 Calvert Pinot Noir is currently closed and firm on the nose (although a point to note, the Calvert and Block 5 were bottled in September, and it is now late November. The other Pinots from this vintage went to bottle in May). In the mouth, however, this wine hits a massive stride. Fortright tannins accompany powerful fruit and fine acidity to make an impact. There's pomegranate and cherry, violets, rosehips and capers, with green olive tapenade and even a hint of bone broth. Once again, the acidity in conjunction with the tannins combine to bring on a cool finish... lovely. I do love the strawberry through the finish. 14% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.

Block 2 Chardonnay 2022

Rating - 94

Drink Date – 2023-2035

The 2022 Block 2 Chardonnay was bottled, along with the Block 6 Chardonnay, in September 2023, as opposed to the 2022 Bannockburn Chardonnay which was bottled in May of 2023. The same winemaking (aside from a difference in the time spent in oak) across the cuvées serves to highlight the vineyard differences. This Block 2 is far more aromatically restrained and certainly hides the voluminous fruit behind a sheath of mineral phenolics. The wine is powerful but restrained and pure in its way. It's lovely, with a gentle brine note through the finish. 14% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.

MacMuir Pinot Noir 2022

Rating - 94

Drink Date – 2023-2035

The 2022 MacMuir Pinot Noir is here in its second vintage, a new wine in the lineup for Felton Road. On the nose, this is saturated in red fruit flavor, with pomegranate molasses, white and pink peppercorns, violets and sandalwood. There's a lovely flow to this wine; it has loads of flavor, but it is svelte, polished and gentle all the way. A sleek finish rounds it out. I like it very much. 14.5% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.

Block 3 Pinot Noir 2022**Rating - 94****Drink Date – 2023-2036**

The 2022 Block 3 Pinot Noir is muscular and savory on the nose, with sumac spice, kirsch, pepper berries, a hint of Szechuan peppercorn and caper berries. In the mouth, the wine flows effortlessly. The tannins are pronounced and firm, but they move in line with the fruit and bear no obstruction, spooling as they do through the long finish. The freshness of acidity through the middle to back palate is of particular attraction; it feels juicy and saturating rather than awkward or tangy. It's a powerful wine. 14% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.

Dry Riesling 2023**Rating - 93****Drink Date – 2023-2033**

The 2023 Dry Riesling is mineral and flossy on the nose, with pear drop, lavender, lime flesh, lemon barley, sweet pea florals and green apple skin. In the mouth, the wine is just so pretty. It's austere in its acidic flow and fleshy on the mid-palate, but it has lovely balance and poise. 12.5% alcohol, sealed under screw cap. Some numbers for the nerds (like me): pH is 2.88, total acidity is 8.2, residual sugar is 3.4 grams per litre.

Block 6 Chardonnay 2022**Rating - 93****Drink Date – 2023-2033**

The 2022 Block 6 Chardonnay is powerful and throaty—all back palate and weighty with ripe yellow stone fruit. This is a spicy, full wine with layers of juicy acidity and fleshy fruit. The mineral detail through the finish balances the pure fruit core. 14% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.

Cornish Point Pinot Noir 2022**Rating - 93****Drink Date – 2023-2033**

The 2022 Cornish Point Pinot Noir is incredibly fragrant, with dried lavender and sandalwood, cherry, raspberry pip and cocoa. In the mouth, the wine is full-bodied and supple, with layers of tannin and spice. Through the finish, the wine tightens up and flows across the palate for a precise, spooling close. Exciting wine, I like the undulation of texture in the mouth. 14% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.

Bannockburn Pinot Noir 2022**Rating - 92****Drink Date – 2023-2033**

The 2022 Bannockburn Pinot Noir is a blend of the four vineyards: Cornish Point, MacMuir, Block 3 and Block 5. It leads with violets, cherry blossom, pomegranate pearls, star anise and cracked fennel seeds. In the mouth, the wine is supple and spicy, with lashings of fruit flavor and a balancing splay of tannins through the mid-palate and finish. Nicely handled wine, satisfying and supple. 14% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.

Bannockburn Riesling 2023**Rating - 92****Drink Date – 2023-2033**

The 2023 Bannockburn Riesling is toasty and cloth-y on the nose, with enoki mushroom, juniper, dried rosemary, leafy herbs and brine. In the mouth, the wine is fierce but light, with structure and spice in line with the sleek flow of fruit and flavor. It's a lovely wine. The residual sugar in this cuvée is 59 grams per liter, pH is 2.83 and total acidity is 9.3. This has 9.5% alcohol and is sealed under screw cap.

Bannockburn Chardonnay 2022**Rating - 91****Drink Date – 2023-2032**

The 2022 Bannockburn Chardonnay leads with roasted pineapple, green apple, crushed pine nuts and brine. In the mouth, the wine is glossy and slick, with polish and flow in equal measure. Only 4% to 6% new oak was used across all of the Chardonnay cuvées in 2022. 13.5% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.