



# Felton Road

Felton Road Block 5 Pinot Noir is a superb expression of Central Otago terroir, showcasing finesse, balance, and a long, elegant finish. It reflects the region's cool climate, with impeccable precision and depth.



FELTON ROAD



## Block 5 Pinot Noir 2021

Central Otago, New Zealand

### Region and Vineyards

Felton Road is located in the **Bannockburn subregion of Central Otago**, New Zealand's premier region for **cool-climate Pinot Noir**. Bannockburn benefits from a **continental climate**, with hot summers and cold winters, and a **significant diurnal temperature variation** during the growing season. This climate fosters **slow ripening**, allowing grapes to develop balanced acidity and concentrated flavors.

The **Block 5 vineyard** is situated on a gentle **north-facing slope** in Felton Road's **Elms Vineyard**, first planted in **1993**. The vineyard's soils are varied, comprising a mix of **loess, silt, clay lakebed deposits, and schist gravels**. These free-draining soils, combined with careful vineyard management, including **hand-harvesting, canopy management, and the use of cover crops**, contribute to the **intense flavors and fine structure** of the wine. Felton Road's commitment to **organic and biodynamic viticulture** (certified by **BioGro** and **Demeter**) ensures that the wine reflects the **purest expression** of its unique terroir.

### Winemaking

This vintage of Felton Road Block 5 Pinot Noir was marked by a growing season that included **rainfall during cell division**, which led to **larger berries** and a successful harvest. The winery employs **minimal intervention winemaking**, allowing the terroir to shine through.

The vinification process involved retaining **20% of the fruit as whole clusters**, with the rest **de-stemmed directly** to the fermenters via gravity. A **9-day cold soak** preceded fermentation with **indigenous yeasts**, and the wine was punched down by hand up to twice daily. The total maceration time on skins lasted **23 days**, followed by pressing and transfer to **French oak barrels (30% new)**, where the wine aged for **16 months**. The wine was bottled without **fining or filtration** to preserve its natural complexity and purity.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir



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### Tasting Notes

- **Color:** A vibrant ruby red with a clear, youthful sheen.
- **Aroma:** Aromas of **black cherry**, **dark florals**, and a hint of **spicy leather** emerge from the glass, promising further complexity as the wine evolves in the bottle.
- **Palate:** On the palate, the wine is **elegant and refined**, with layers of **ripe black fruit**, subtle earthiness, and finely integrated tannins. The **detail and depth** of the wine are palpable, with a **long, sustained finish** that is both delicate and powerful. This vintage is marked by its **finesse and balance**, avoiding any heaviness while delivering depth of flavor.

### Did you know?

The **Block 5 vineyard** is known for producing wines with remarkable complexity, largely due to the **diverse soil types** within the vineyard. This variation in soil contributes to the wine's **multi-layered profile**, with different sections of the vineyard imparting unique characteristics to the final blend.

### Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Duck confit:** The rich, savory flavors of duck are beautifully balanced by the wine's vibrant acidity and subtle fruit notes.
- **Wild mushroom risotto:** The earthy flavors of mushrooms complement the wine's **silky tannins** and nuanced complexity.
- **Roast lamb with rosemary:** The wine's depth and finesse harmonize with the robust, herb-infused flavors of lamb.
- **Soft, creamy cheeses:** The wine's fine tannins and balanced acidity provide a perfect counterpoint to the rich texture of cheeses like **Brie** or **Camembert**.

#### Decanter (DCT) : 97 Points (2021)



*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.*

#### Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 97 Points (2021)



*The 2021 Pinot Noir Block 5 oozes class with its coating of rich fruit that sways its way across the palate. It's not a robust style, but there's masses of fine Pinot tannins that quietly melt around your cheeks. It's rather easy to like in youth, which is surprising. It doesn't even seem to need to take a breath and relax. And yet, it's all here for the long term with its great length, quiet structure and complex fragrances that fill the mouth. (1/2023)*



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**James Suckling (JS) : 97 Points (2021)**

*The brightness and clarity of fruit is something else with hibiscus, ripe strawberries, raspberries, and slate follow through to a full body, with a tight and structured intensity at the finish. Solid tannins give it a tightness at the end. Needs four or five years to open.*



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