Felton Road

Felton Road Calvert Pinot Noir 2020 amplifies the signature floral and fruit notes of the Calvert site, crafted with the estate's hallmark minimal intervention approach to highlight the purity of the terroir.

FELTON ROAD

Calvert Pinot Noir 2024

Central Otago, New Zealand

Region and Vineyards

The **Calvert Vineyard** is located in the **Bannockburn** sub-region of **Central Otago**, New Zealand's renowned Pinot Noir producing area. Positioned just 1km east of **The Elms Vineyard**, Calvert benefits from **deep heavy silts** and a **thin layer of loess topsoil**, which contribute to the wine's structure and complexity. The vineyard is meticulously managed using **biodynamic practices**, certified by **BioGro** and **Demeter** .

The cool and relatively wet conditions during the flowering season resulted in **smaller berry sizes** and **low bunch weights**, which helped concentrate the fruit's flavors. These vines are carefully tended with **hand-harvesting**, **shoot thinning**, and **leaf plucking**, ensuring optimal fruit quality. Cover crops are planted between the rows to improve biodiversity and soil health, further enhancing the vineyard's sustainability.

Winemaking

Felton Road's winemaking approach emphasizes minimal intervention to allow the vineyard's terroir to shine. The grapes for the **2020 Calvert Pinot Noir** were gently **destemmed** into open-top fermenters, with about **20% of whole clusters** included to add complexity. The wine underwent a **long pre-fermentation soak** of 8-10 days, followed by fermentation with **indigenous yeasts**.

The wine was fermented in **open-top fermenters**, with gentle hand plunging up to two times per day to extract color and tannins. After a total of 22-24 days on the skins, the wine was pressed and transferred by gravity to **French oak barrels**, with **30% new oak**. The wine aged for **17 months** in barrel, without fining or filtration, ensuring that the wine retains its natural structure and texture. It was bottled in **September 2021**.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Medium ruby with bright, clear edges.
- **Aroma**: A captivating bouquet of **violets** and **floral notes** characteristic of the Calvert vineyard, complemented by dark cherry, plum, and hints of allspice.
- **Palate**: Silky and refined, the mid-palate is laden with floral notes, dark fruits like cherry and plum, and a subtle spiciness from the allspice. The wine finishes with **elegant tannins** and a firm, precise structure, reflecting the cool and extended ripening season. Vibrant acidity lifts the flavors, leaving a long and satisfying finish.

Did you know?

The **Calvert Vineyard** is part of a unique collaboration between **Felton Road**, **Pisa Range Estate**, and **Carrick Winery**, with all three wineries producing their own single-vineyard Pinot Noir from the same vineyard. This allows wine lovers to experience the different expressions of the same terroir through the lens of each winery's philosophy.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Duck breast with cherry sauce**: The richness of the duck and the fruitiness of the sauce complement the dark cherry and plum notes in the wine.
- **Mushroom and truffle risotto**: The earthy flavors of mushrooms and truffles harmonize with the wine's floral and spice characteristics.
- **Herb-crusted lamb**: The savory herbs and tender meat pair beautifully with the wine's tannins and allspice notes.
- **Roasted beet salad with goat cheese**: The vibrant acidity of the wine complements the tanginess of the goat cheese, while the earthy beets enhance the wine's subtle complexity.

95

Robert Parker (RP) : 95 Points (2020)

The 2020 Calvert Pinot Noir is sumptuously red fruited, with cherry, strawberry, raspberry/rhubarb, pink peppercorns and star anise. There's even fennel seeds. In the mouth, the wine plays along so nicely and cooperatively. It is an elegant, supple wine in a wonderful place right now. If you are playing along at home, this is now entering a sublime drinking window. 14% alcohol, sealed under screw cap.

94 vinous

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 94 Points (2020)

The 2020 Pinot Noir Calvert may initially seem smooth and refined, but there's no escaping its sense of power; it packs a punch with its concentrated core and structured tannic frame. While you'll find cherry-like fruit and a floral lift, there's a distinctly savory edge to this vintage, which displays Worcestershire sauce, spice and fruitcake alongside herbal notes. It achieves a wonderful balance between the core of ripe fruit and the powerful structure. A Calvert has the brawn to age and will benefit from more time in bottle.