Felton Road

Crafted with biodynamic precision, the Block 5 Pinot Noir 2022 is a reflection of Felton Road's commitment to producing wines of exceptional purity and depth.

FELTON ROAD

97
James Suckling

Block 5 Pinot Noir 2022

Central Otago, New Zealand

Region and Vineyards

Felton Road is located in the **Bannockburn subregion of Central Otago**, renowned for producing some of New Zealand's most celebrated **cool-climate Pinot Noirs**. The **Block 5 vineyard**, situated on a **north-facing slope** in **The Elms Vineyard**, was planted in **1993**. The soils here are diverse, ranging from **loess and silt** to **clay lakebed deposits and angular schist gravels**, contributing to the wine's complexity and depth.

Felton Road's vineyards are farmed using **organic and biodynamic practices**, certified by **BioGro** and **Demeter**, ensuring sustainable viticulture that enhances the expression of terroir. Careful **vineyard management** practices, including **shoot thinning, leaf plucking**, and **hand-harvesting**, ensure that only the highest quality fruit is used in the production of Block 5 Pinot Noir.

Winemaking

The **2022 vintage** benefited from a growing season marked by **regular rainfall** and **warm conditions**. Flowering occurred early, and the development of the grapes advanced quickly, leading to a harvest that commenced in **mid-March**. The wine was crafted with **20% whole clusters**, while the remaining grapes were gently **de-stemmed** and gravity-fed into the fermenters. A **long pre-fermentation soak** of **8-10 days** was followed by spontaneous fermentation with **indigenous yeasts**. Manual punch-downs occurred twice daily, and the total maceration time on the skins lasted **24 days**.

After pressing, the wine was transferred to **French oak barrels (29% new)** for **16 months** of aging. The wine underwent **no fining or filtration**, preserving its purity and complexity, before bottling in **September 2023**.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 100% Pinot Noir

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: A deep, vibrant ruby red.
- **Aroma**: The nose is intense and dynamic, with aromas of **dark florals**, **black cherry**, and a signature blend of **spices and dried herbs** typical of Central Otago Pinot Noir.
- **Palate**: The palate is refined and complex, with layers of **ripe black fruit** balanced by fine, integrated tannins. The wine is **seamless and poised**, with a vibrant energy that leads to a long, elegant finish. The tannins are present yet **svelte**, indicating excellent aging potential.

Did you know?

The **Block 5 vineyard** is one of the oldest on the estate, planted in **1993**, and has gained a reputation for producing some of Felton Road's most complex and age-worthy Pinot Noirs. The vineyard's unique combination of soil types, including **angular schist gravels** and **clay deposits**, plays a crucial role in the distinctive profile of the wine.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roast lamb with rosemary and garlic**: The rich, savory flavors of lamb pair beautifully with the wine's fine tannins and herbal spice notes.
- **Mushroom risotto**: The earthy depth of mushrooms complements the wine's complex aromatics and silky mouthfeel.
- **Duck breast with cherry sauce**: The wine's black cherry notes mirror the sweetness of the sauce, while its acidity cuts through the richness of the duck.
- **Aged cheeses**, such as **Comté** or **Gruyère**: The wine's balance of fruit and acidity pairs perfectly with the nutty, savory flavors of aged cheeses.

97 James Suckling

James Suckling (JS) : 97 Points (2022)

There is an opulence and intensity here yet it remains fresh and vivid with orange peel and ripe strawberry aromas and flavors. Medium to full body with firm and racy tannins that give it tension and focus. Clear and naked in so many ways giving it a clarity that is appreciated. From biodynamically grown grapes with Demeter certification. Better in two or three years.

95

Robert Parker (RP) : 95 Points (2022)

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.