

## **Felton Road Bannockburn Central Otago Chardonnay**

Forging ahead in quality, this wine is grown at three sites at Bannockburn and matured in French oak barriques (with limited new oak; 12 per cent in 2010). The 2010 vintage (\*\*\*\*½) is richly scented, with very citrusy aromas and flavours. An intense, elegant, cool-climate style, slightly appley and spicy, with finely integrated oak, it is tight, harmonious, slightly minerally and long. Drink now or cellar. The 2011 (\*\*\*\*½) has a fragrant, slightly biscuity, complex bouquet. It's a finely poised, youthful wine, with concentrated, citrusy flavours, good acid spine and a long finish. Best drinking 2014+.

## **Felton Road Block 2 Central Otago Chardonnay**

This outstanding wine is grown in a 'special part of the Elms Vineyard in front of the winery', which has the oldest vines. In a vertical tasting of the 2007–2011 vintages, held in September 2012, the older wines were still drinking superbly – the 2007 (\*\*\*\*\*) is terrific now, with a real sense of drive and depth. The 2010 (\*\*\*\*\*) is a star vintage, notably fragrant and rich. The 2011 vintage (\*\*\*\*\*) is a very elegant, Chablis-like wine with rich, citrusy, complex flavours, a subtle seasoning of oak and a very long finish. Open 2014+.

## **Felton Road Bannockburn Central Otago Pinot Noir**

The Bannockburn winery's 'standard' Pinot Noir is a distinguished wine in its own right, blended from its three vineyards at Bannockburn – The Elms, Cornish Point and Calvert. Matured for 11 months in French oak casks (30 per cent new), it is bottled without fining or filtering. Instantly attractive, the 2011 vintage (\*\*\*\*\*) is deep and youthful in colour. Mouthfilling (14.5 per cent alcohol) and savoury, it has concentrated cherry, plum, spice, herb and nut flavours, showing excellent complexity, and a long, finely poised finish. Drink now or cellar.

## **Felton Road Calvert Pinot Noir**

Grown in the Calvert Vineyard at Bannockburn – which neighbours and is managed by Felton Road – and matured in French oak barriques (about 30 per cent new), the 2011 vintage (\*\*\*\*\*) is a very savoury and complex wine, deep and youthful in colour. Full-bodied, it is ripe and silky-textured, with rich, vibrant cherry, plum, spice, dried-herb and nut flavours and a long finish. It's already delicious, but should be at its best 2014+.

## **Felton Road Cornish Point Pinot Noir**

From the company-owned Cornish Point Vineyard at the eastern end of Bannockburn, 6 kilometres from the winery, this is always one of my favourite Felton Road reds. Matured in French oak barriques (about 30 per cent new), the 2011 vintage (\*\*\*\*\*) is sturdy (14.5 per cent alcohol) and deeply coloured, powerful and highly concentrated, with deep plum, spice and nut flavours, lively and long. It should flourish with cellaring.

## **Felton Road Block 3 Central Otago Pinot Noir**

Grown at Bannockburn, on a north-facing slope 270 metres above sea level, this is a majestic Central Otago wine, among the finest Pinot Noirs in the country. The mature vines are cultivated just in front of the winery, in a section of the vineyard where the clay content is relatively high, giving 'dried herbs and ripe fruit characters'. The wine is matured for about a year in Burgundy oak barrels (about 30 per cent new), and bottled without fining or filtration. The 2011 vintage (\*\*\*\*\*) is powerful, with deep, youthful cherry and nut flavours, complex, savoury and long. Graceful, yet full of potential, it should be at its best 2014+.

## **Felton Road Block 5 Pinot Noir**

This is winemaker Blair Walter's favourite Felton Road red. Grown in a 'special' block of The Elms Vineyard at Bannockburn, in Central Otago, it matures for a year in French oak barriques (30 per cent new), and is then held for several more months in seasoned oak casks. In a vertical tasting of the 2007–2011 vintages, held in September 2012, the 2010 vintage (\*\*\*\*\*) was the standout – exceptionally concentrated, yet deliciously poised and silky-textured. The 2011 (\*\*\*\*\*) is a 'masculine' style, powerful and firm, sweet-fruited and savoury, with deep cherry, plum and spice flavours, tight and youthful. It should flourish for a decade.

## **Felton Road Dry Riesling**

Based on low-yielding vines in schisty soils at Bannockburn, in Central Otago, this wine is hand-picked and fermented with indigenous yeasts. The 2010 vintage (\*\*\*\*), grown in The Elms and Calvert vineyards, is full-bodied (12.5 per cent alcohol) and dry, with good weight and crisp, citrusy, appley, spicy flavours, poised and mineral. One for the cellar. The 2012 (\*\*\*\*\*) is weighty and dry (4 grams/litre of residual sugar), with pure grapefruit, lemon and lime flavours, showing lovely vibrancy, drive and richness. Mouthfilling (12 per cent alcohol), it carries the dry style well; drink now or cellar.

## **Felton Road Bannockburn Central Otago Riesling**

Estate-grown on mature vines, this is a gently sweet wine with deep flavours cut with fresh acidity. It offers more drink-young appeal than its Dry Riesling stablemate, but invites long-term cellaring. Tank-fermented mostly with indigenous yeasts, it is bottled with 20 to 60 grams per litre of residual sugar. The 2010 vintage (\*\*\*\*\*), grown in The Elms and Calvert vineyards, is scented and light, with lemon, lime, apple and spice flavours, and lovely poise, intensity and immediacy. The 2012 (\*\*\*\*\*) is a Mosel-like wine, light (8.5 per cent alcohol) and intense, with deep, citrusy flavours, a hint of sherbet, fine sugar/acid balance, and excellent drive and length. Drink now and over the next decade.

## **Felton Road Block 1 Central Otago Riesling**

Estate-grown in The Elms Vineyard, on a 'steeper slope' which yields 'riper fruit' without noble rot, this Bannockburn wine is made in a style 'similar to a late-harvest, Mosel spätlese'. The 2010 vintage (\*\*\*\*\*) is light (10 per cent alcohol) and lovely, with intense citrus-fruit and slight sherbet flavours, appetising acidity and a sweet, harmonious finish. The 2012 (\*\*\*\*\*) is still a baby. Very rich, with intense, citrusy, peachy flavours and a racy, very long finish, it shows lovely poise and vivacity. Already hard to resist, it should be very long-lived.