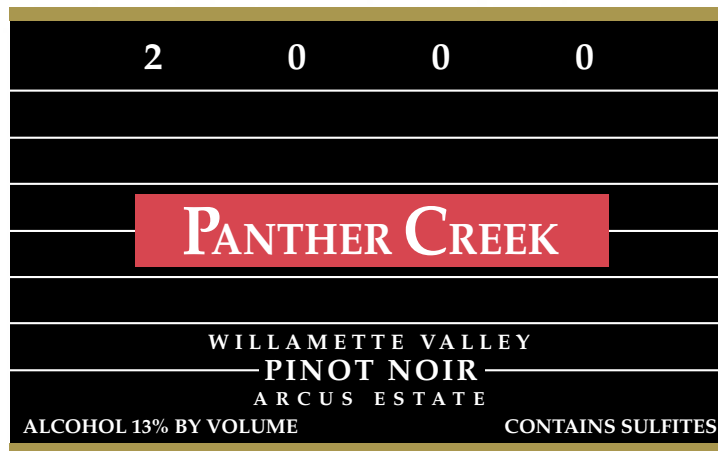


PANTHER CREEK

2000 Arcus Estate Pinot Noir



Vineyard Notes: Panther Creek is able to choose some of the best vineyard sites in the Willamette Valley, contracting specific blocks, which yield the highest quality grapes. Arcus Estate is such a site, superbly suited for Pinot Noir. 2000 is our second vintage with this splendid Archery Summit vineyard in the Red Hills above Dundee, Oregon.

The grapes are typically thinned at veraison to nearly half the normal yield, in order to produce the most concentrated flavors in the fruit. Clones are Pommard, 667 and 777; the soil type is Jory.

Vintage Notes: The 2000 vintage was characterized by a very warm summer, followed by a cool, clear September and seasonal October. Normally, Pinot Noir is harvested in the Willamette Valley between late September and early October, and the 2000 vintage was no exception. Harvest of the Arcus fruit was September 27 and October 5, 2000. The very warm summer and cool autumn produced fruit with exceptional ripeness and superb flavor development (conditions which rarely coexist).

Varietal: 100% Pinot Noir

Vinification/Aging: After de-stemming 100%, the fruit was crushed gently so the must contained 30-40% whole berries. The must underwent approximately ten days primary fermentation (native yeasts to 65°F, then inoculated with BRL97 and RC212 yeast strains). It was pressed in a Willmes 30 hectoliter membrane press, settled in a clean tank,

then racked into French oak barrels where it aged 16 months without further racking. Approximately 40% of the barrels were new, with the balance consisting of second and third-use barrels.

Bottling/Release Date: Bottled February 27, 2002; released May 1, 2002

Tasting notes:

- Color: garnet
- Nose: candied cherries, blue plums, dark spices, saffras, oak and earth
- Taste: sweet red fruits (especially cherries), plums, allspice and vanilla

Selling Point:

- The 2000 Arcus is a very elegant and forward wine, with a great fruit center, many lovely layers and impressive length. Its bright acidity assures significant aging potential.

Production: Total 270 cases

Suggested Retail Price: \$60/bottle

Reviews/Ratings:

- 1999: 90 Rating, *Wine News*, 9/01
- 1999: 92 Rating, *Wine Enthusiast*, 11/01
- 1999: 89 Rating, *Wine Spectator*, 5/31/02
- 2000: Not yet rated