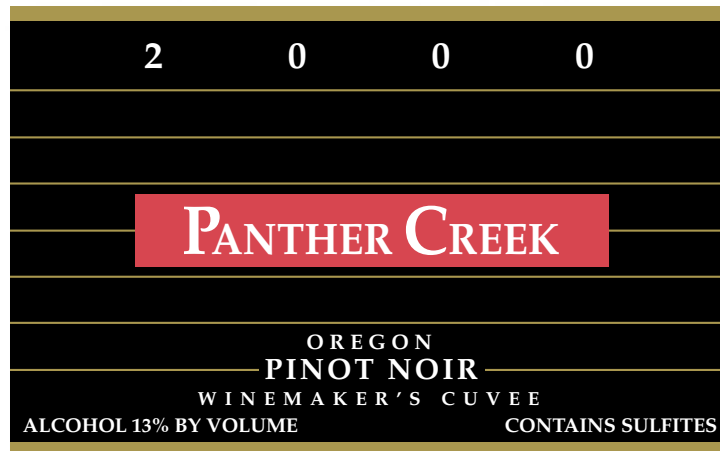


PANTHER CREEK

2000 Winemaker's Cuvée Pinot Noir



Vineyard Notes: Beginning with the 2000 vintage, Winemaker's Cuvée will be our only blended Pinot noir. This cuvée is a fusion of Pinot Noirs from the Willamette Valley (selected for their richness, complexity and structure) with those from the Umpqua Valley (selected for their ripeness and brightness of fruit). The blend for the 2000 vintage is Melrose Vineyard (54%), Freedom Hill Vineyard (19%), De Ponte Vineyard (13%), Youngberg Hill Vineyard (10%), and Bednarik Vineyard (4%). All of these vineyards except Melrose are located in the Willamette Valley.

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. The fruit that went into the Winemaker's Cuvée was harvested between October 8 and 13, 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 90%, the fruit was crushed gently so the must contained 40-50% whole berries. The must underwent

approximately ten days primary fermentation (native yeasts to 65°F, then inoculated with proprietary 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 almost 11 months without further racking. Approximately 30% of the barrels were new, with the balance consisting of second and third-use barrels.

Bottling/Release Date: Bottled September 25-25, 2001; released November 1, 2001

Tasting notes:

- Color: deep violet
- Nose: red berries, cassis and truffles
- Taste: sweet red fruits (especially red currants), leather and earth

Selling Point:

- This Cuvée is superbly balanced for such a forward, young wine, and has a bright acidity that promises significant aging potential.

Production: Total 2,250 cases

Suggested Retail Price: \$35/bottle

Reviews/Ratings:

- Not yet reviewed

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