

Panther Creek 2003 Pinot Noir Nysa Vineyard

Vineyard Notes: Panther Creek is able to choose some of the best vineyard sites in the Willamette Valley, contracting certain blocks, which yield the highest quality grapes. Nysa Vineyard is such a site, superbly suited for Pinot Noir. Its terroir produces a very "Burgundian" Pinot, offering early accessibility and great ageworthiness. The grapes are typically thinned at veraison to nearly half the normal yield, in order to produce the most concentrated flavors in the fruit. The soil type is Jory, and the Pinot Noir clones are Pommard and Wadenswil.

Vintage Notes: The 2003 vintage began with a normal rainy spring. As we moved towards summer, the Willamette Valley warmed up and by early July the rains had moved on for the year. Both July and August were significantly warmer than average. Unusual heat and breezy conditions in late September resulted in some of the ripest grapes we have ever harvested.

Varietal/Appellation: 100% Willamette Valley Pinot noir

Vinification/Aging: We de-stemmed approximately 95% of clusters, while crushing gently to leave 40-50% whole berries. The must was gravity transferred into fermentors where it spent approximately three days in cold soak. We then inoculated each lot with a selected isolated yeast strain. At dryness (after about 10 days of primary fermentation) each lot was pressed in a Willmes 30 hectoliter membrane press. After settling in stainless steel tanks, the wine was racked into French oak barrels. Approximately 30% of the barrels were new barrels, with the balance consisting of second and third use barrels. In spring, after malolactic fermentation, the wine was racked again, settled, and returned to cleaned barrels. This wine was barrel aged for a total of 16 months.

Bottling/Release Date: Bottled March 2005; release date: May 2006

Tasting notes:

Color: Deep ruby

Nose: Red and black currants, blueberries and vanilla

Taste: An exotic amalgam of black currants, red fruit, caramel and spice

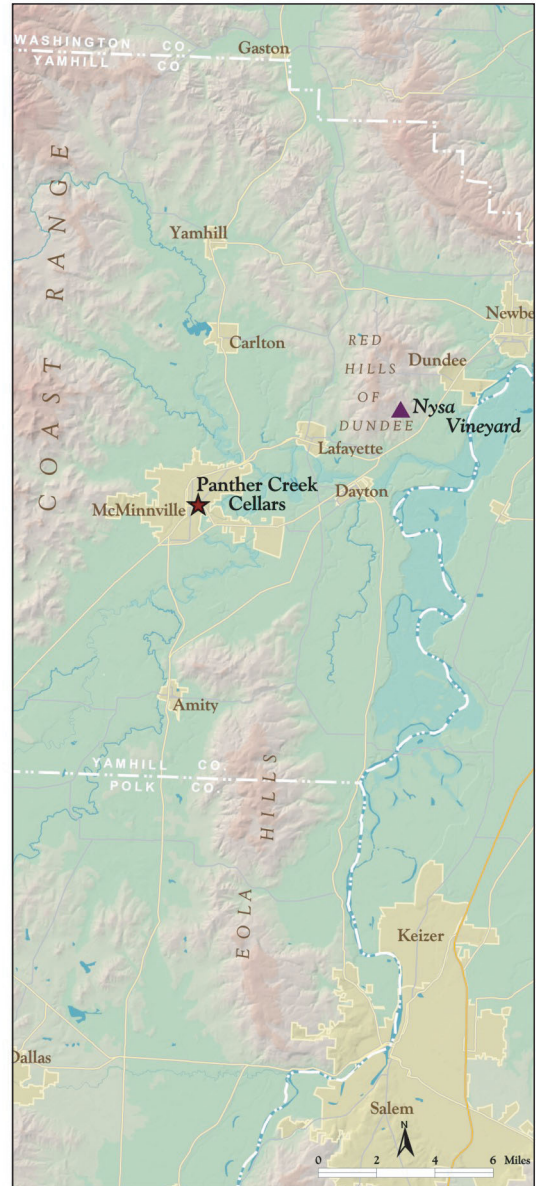
Summary:

Exhibiting classic Red Hills spice and earthiness, Nysa produces a very "Burgundian" Pinot, offering early accessibility and great ageworthiness.

Production: 360 cases

Panther Creek Cellars

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Nysa Vineyard