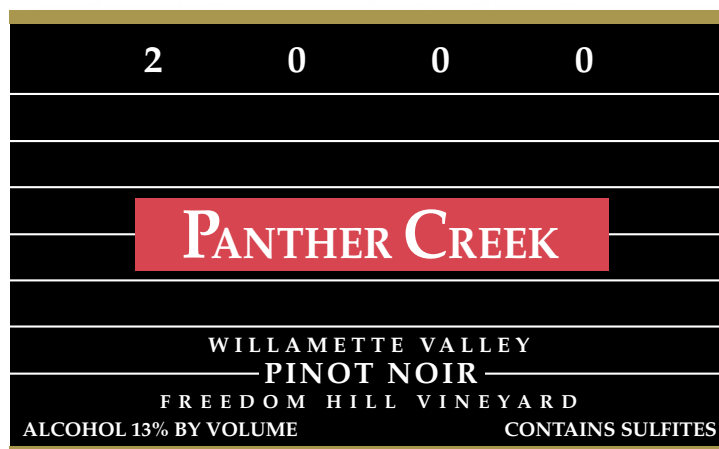


# PANTHER CREEK

## 2000 Freedom Hill Vineyard 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. Freedom Hill is such a site, superbly suited for Pinot Noir. Panther Creek's holdings at Freedom Hill include a block employing the lyre trellis, an unusual vine-training system that improves the yield and grape quality, due to better leaf and fruit exposure. 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 Bellpine, and the Pinot Noir clones are Pommard and Wadenswil.

**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 Freedom Hill fruit was October 8, 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, BM45 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 50% of the barrels were new, with the balance consisting of second and third-use barrels.

**Bottling/Release Date:** Bottled February 25, 2002; released May 1, 2002

**Tasting notes:**

- Color: deep garnet
- Nose: dried cherries and mint with a dark mineral undertone
- Taste: sweet red fruits, black currants, anise and mint

**Selling Point:**

- The 2000 Freedom Hill is a huge, opulent wine. It is very rich, round and forward (yes, forward) with great length. Its bright acidity assures significant aging potential.

**Production:** Total 1,700 cases

**Suggested Retail Price:** \$48/bottle

**Reviews/Ratings:**

- 1998: 92 Rating, Robert M. Parker, *Wine Advocate*, 2/01
- 1998: 91 Rating, *Wine Enthusiast*, 12/00
- 1999: 91 Rating, *Wine Spectator*, 5/31/02
- 1999: 91 Rating, Robert M. Parker, *Wine Advocate*, 8/31/01
- 1999: 90 Rating, *Wine Enthusiast*, 11/01
- 1999: 90 Rating, *Wine News*, 9/01
- 2000: Not yet rated