

## Panther Creek 2003 Pinot Noir Freedom Hill Vineyard

**Vineyard Notes:** Freedom Hill Vineyard, located near Dallas, Oregon, is owned and managed by the Dusschee family. This large, gently sloping vineyard lies on Bellpine soil in the low range of hills leading up to the East slope of Oregon's Coast Range. This is our southernmost Pinot noir vineyard. Panther Creek wines from Freedom Hill tend to show deep, rich color, firm texture and big concentrated black fruit flavors. Panther Creek has been making wine from Freedom Hill Vineyard since 1992.

**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 season. 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 received.

**Varietal/Appellation:** 100% Willamette Valley Pinot noir

**Vinification/Aging:** Our winemaking goal is for each Panther Creek wine to express the personality of its vintage and the character of its vineyard as clearly as possible. After hand picking in the vineyard, and an additional round of hand sorting at the winery, the grapes are gently destemmed and partially crushed. The must is then gravity transferred into fermentors where it spends approximately three days in cold soak. After 10-14 days of temperature controlled primary fermentation, the wine is pressed, then settled in stainless steel tanks. The wine is then racked into French oak barrels, of which approximately 1/3rd are new. In spring, after malolactic fermentation, the wine is racked again, settled, and returned to cleaned barrels. The wine is barrel aged for a total of 16 months.

**Bottling Date:** Bottled March 2005

### Tasting notes:

Color: Deep ruby

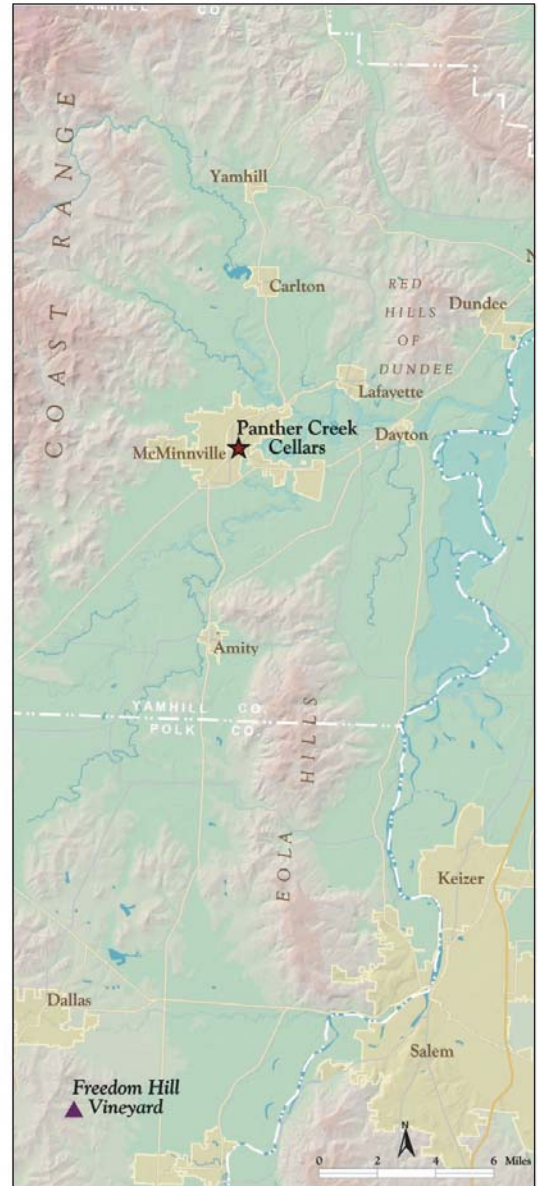
Nose: Sweet, dried red cherries, briar and earth

Taste: Dark red cherries, ginger, vanilla and a hint of anise

### Summary:

Always a Pinot with great aging potential, the 2003 Freedom Hill is a beautifully structured wine. This concentrated wine shows beautiful ripe fruit flavor and will age gracefully for many years.

**Production:** 950 cases



*Lyre trellised vines at Freedom Hill*

## Panther Creek Cellars

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