

PANTHER CREEK

Cellars

vinous

## Vinous Oregon Report Dec 2016- Josh Reynolds

Two thousand fourteen heralds what by all indications will be an unprecedented run of three exceptional vintages for Oregon Pinot Noir. Now that I've had the chance to taste finished 2014s from most of the best producers, I can say with confidence that this is the strongest and most consistently pleasurable vintage, overall, that I've tasted in my 31 years of following Oregon Pinot Noir.

**Panther Creek Cellars Pinot Noir Carter Vineyard 2014** - Dark red. Heady aromas of ripe dark berries, incense and fruitcake, joined by a suave floral nuance that builds in the glass. Seamless and weighty on the palate, offering sweet, oak-spice-tinged blackberry and cherry cola flavors enlivened by a mineral nuance. Closes smooth, gently tannic and sappy, showing impressive cling and lingering suggestions of candied raspberry and vanilla. **92pts.**

**Panther Creek Cellars Pinot Noir Schindler Vineyard 2014** - Ruby-red. Spice-accented aromas of dark berries, cola, pungent flowers and vanilla gain vivacity from a peppery element. Sappy and broad in the mouth, offering appealingly sweet blackberry and cherry cola flavors that pick up a smoky quality with air. The long, penetrating finish is firmed by silky, slow-building tannins and resonating minerality. **91pts.**

**Panther Creek Cellars Pinot Noir Kalita Vineyard 2014** - (42 percent new oak) Deep red. Sexy, expansive aromas of black raspberry, cherry cola, pungent flowers and star anise, along with a hint of smokiness in the background. Sappy and broad on the palate, offering intense dark berry, cola and floral pastille flavors enlivened by a jolt of zesty acidity. Shows excellent clarity and power on a long, penetrating finish that's shaped by dusty, slow-building tannins. **92pts.**

**Panther Creek Cellars Pinot Noir Lazy River Vineyard 2014** - (47 percent new oak) Limpid ruby-red. A complex, deeply perfumed bouquet suggests fresh dark berries, cola, vanilla and potpourri, and a hint of allspice emerges with aeration. Juicy, expansive blackberry and bitter cherry flavors tighten up slowly and become sweeter with air. Shows a suave blend of richness and energy on the strikingly persistent finish, which is framed by harmonious, fine-grained tannins. **93pts.**

**Panther Creek Cellars Pinot Noir Reserve 2014** - Vivid ruby-red. An assertively perfumed bouquet displays scents of musky red berries, spicecake and a hint of mocha. Juicy and seamless in texture; tangy acidity adds lift and cut to sweet, spice-tinged cherry, black raspberry and floral pastille flavors. Shows very good clarity and thrust on the finish, which features gentle tannins and a suggestion of candied lavender. **90pts.**

**Panther Creek Cellars Pinot Noir Winemaker's Cuvée 2014** - Brilliant ruby-red. An exotically perfumed bouquet evokes ripe red berries, spicecake and rose candy, accented by a smoky mineral overtone. Bitter cherry and black raspberry flavors unfold slowly and show good depth and focus. Closes on a floral note, offering fine-grained tannins and very good, emphatically fruity persistence. **89pts**