



## Vinous Media Praises New Longoria Releases

*"Rick Longoria is one of the Sta. Rita Hills's veteran growers and producers, with a track record that is matched by only a few of his colleagues. In the last few years, the wines seem to have improved remarkably, which is great to see. Longoria draws from his own Fe Ciega vineyard as well as a handful of other top sources in the area. The standouts in this range are the Pinots from Sanford & Benedict and Fe Ciega. Longoria works with fully destemmed fruit and keeps his Pinots in barrel for 14-18 months, with relatively low levels of new oak."* Antonio Galloni, August 2015

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### 2013 Pinot Noir La Encantada Vineyard

**93 Points**

Bright red stone fruits, game, rose petal and savory notes run through the 2013 Pinot Noir La Encantada Vineyard. There is no shortage of personality here, that much is certain. The 2013 offers plenty mid-palate density as well as superb balance. A kick of red cherry and game adds nuance on the finish. The 2013 will delight readers for the better part of the next decade. There is a lot going on in the glass.

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### 2013 Pinot Noir Bien Nacido Vineyard Block N

**92 Points**

Another intriguing wine, the 2013 Pinot Noir Bien Nacido Vineyard Block N is marked by exotic, diffuse aromatics that are typical of the Martini clone. Readers will find a chaotic, slightly disorganized wine that seems to be moving in several different directions at once. But that is part of the attraction. Here the fruit is picked a little bit riper than it is for some of the other wines. Hard candy, sweet spices and a dash of new oak add nuance on the finish, but the Bien Nacido is hard to really capture in words, as it is a wine of myriad of sensations and seemingly endless shades of nuance. The 2013 emerges from the famed Block N, which was planted in the early 1970s and remains a source of pedigreed wines to this day.

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### 2013 Pinot Noir Fe Ciega

**94 Points**

Beams of underlying minerality and acidity give the 2013 Pinot Noir Fe Ciega its structure and sense of direction. Smoke, tobacco, blue/purplish-hued fruit and exotic spice notes are some of the signatures. Far from an easygoing wine, the 2013 is going to need time in bottle to fully come together. Still, the drive and energy here are compelling. The Fe Ciega is the darkest and most tannic of Rick Longoria's 2013 Pinots.

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### 2013 Chardonnay Cuvée Diana

**91 Points**

Longoria's 2013 Chardonnay Cuvée Diana is a blend of fruit from Rita's Crown, Rancho Santa Rosa and Fe Ciega. Delicate and understated in its personality, the 2013 offers lovely balance. White peach, flowers and a touch of new oak meld into the pretty, nuanced finish.

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### 2013 Chardonnay Rita's Crown Vineyard

**92 Points**

The 2013 Chardonnay Rita's Crown Vineyard is round, succulent and beautifully textured in the glass. Honeyed notes give the 2013 much of its volume and overall feel. Next to the Cuvée Diana, the Rita's Crown is a bit fuller and more voluptuous.

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### 2013 Chardonnay Fe Ciega Vineyard

**91 Points**

An earthier, phenolic profile marks the 2013 Chardonnay Fe Ciega Vineyard and its dense center of fruit. Inward and powerful, the 2013 will benefit from another 6-12 months in bottle. I expect the Fe Ciega will always remain a bit virile in style.

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### 2013 Pinot Noir Lovely Rita

**91 Points**

The 2013 Pinot Noir Lovely Rita is an absolutely joyous entry-level Pinot made from Longoria's Fe Ciega vineyard. Sweet red cherry, mint and spice abound in a soft, fruit-driven yet delicate Pinot loaded with personality. Intensely floral, perfumed notes give the finish a welcoming, inviting quality that is highly appealing.

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### 2013 Pinot Noir Sanford & Benedict Vineyard

**94 Points**

The 2013 Pinot Noir Sanford & Benedict Vineyard is a real stand out. Purity of fruit and a sense of voluptuousness are two of the signatures, yet there is no sense of excess heaviness; instead the Sanford & Benedict does what only Pinot Noir can do - deliver intensity without weight. A host of plum, black cherry, spice and menthol notes wrap around the palate in a fleshy, deeply expressive Pinot that speaks to class and the pedigree of this site. The deeply, layered, resonant finish is a thing of beauty. This is Rick Longoria's first S&B Pinot since 2006, and it is a winner.