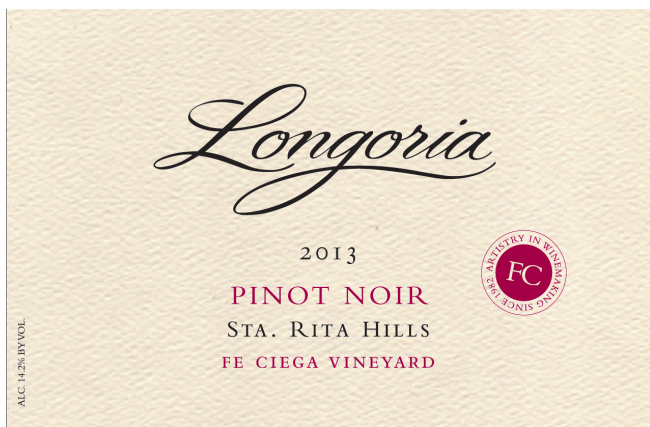


AS FEATURED IN **Wine & Spirits**

YEAR'S BEST U.S. PINOT NOIR

"Our blind panels tasted 1,185 new-release US pinot noirs over the past 12 months. Our critics rated 142 as exceptional (90+)."



93 2013 Sta. Rita Hills Fe Ciega Vineyard Pinot Noir - \$55

Rick Longoria planted Fe Ciega in 1998 on a south-facing mesa above the usually dry Santa Ynez River, where the soil is clay loam with fractured shale. His 2013 feels promising but jittery, the fruit appetizingly floral, the tannins sharp and astringent. As it takes on air it releases its tight, locked-up energy in a beam of dark, fresh fruit that's brisk and propulsive, lasting on the taut chewiness of perfectly ripe fruit skin and aromas of blackberry and violet. Age it for a few more years or decant it for roast duck. (466 cases)



90 2014 Sta. Rita Hills Lovely Rita Pinot Noir - \$32

A plump pinot noir with cleansing acidity, this gains complexity from a fragrant violet scent rising out of its polished dark plum flavor. It's youthful but delicious, ready to drink with roast chicken. (680 cases)