

2019 PINOT NOIR

FE CIEGA

STA. RITA HILLS

Fe Ciega is always our most dark and impactful Pinot Noir. The fruit demands kid gloves with extraction, as we've learned that if we're not careful this Pinot can almost take on the power of Syrah. Compared to the sandier stretches of Sta Rita Hills to the North, the richer clay loam at Fe Ciega lends an earthier and spicier profile to Pinot Noir.

That's for sure the case with this 2019 bottling. This vintage was absolutely benevolent year for grape growing in our region. The cool Spring led to a later start for the vines, then cool weather dominated throughout veraison and we obtained perfectly healthy fruit at harvest. It was just the kind of year for Fe Ciega to flaunt its great depth and wildness, while remaining fresh and lively on the palate.

This Pinot Noir is just so aromatically complete and layered. Initially you find that earthy propensity of this vineyard, with scents of warm earth, iron and rosemary. Then notes of ripe cherries and berries gain exuberance in the glass, melding into a complex tapestry of cola, flowers and Asian spices. It hits the palate with deliciously glossy texture that imparts rich flavors of red plums and cherry, while streaks of pomegranate and minerals preserve a fresh tilt. The fine, tea-like tannins help sculpt this shapely Pinot Noir, which will evolve for a decade onwards.

BLEND 100% Pinot Noir

VINEYARDS Fe Ciega

AVA Sta. Rita Hills

ALCOHOL 13.5%

VINIFICATION open top fermentation with 10% whole clusters

BARREL AGING 15 months in French oak, 18% new

TOTAL PRODUCTION 256 Cases

PRESS REVIEWS

Jeb Dunnuck

"Lots of framboise and strawberry fruits as well as more Burgundian forest floor and earthy nuances define the 2019 Pinot Noir Fe Ciega Vineyard, one of the standouts in the lineup. With brilliant focus and precision, a great mid-palate, and ripe tannins, it's going to be well worth following over the coming decade." **96 Points**

Antonio Galloni's VINOUS

"The 2019 Pinot Noir Fe Ciega Vineyard is fabulous. Bright, effusive and wonderfully deep, the Fe Ciega has it all. Soaring aromatics, sculpted fruit and bright, salivating acids all drive through as the Fe Ciega opens in the glass. The purity of the fruit is just striking. The 2019 is a captivating wine in every way. A touch of whole clusters (10%) adds complexity. Adam Tolmach acquired Fe Ciega in 2020, so this will now be an estate bottling." **95 Points**

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