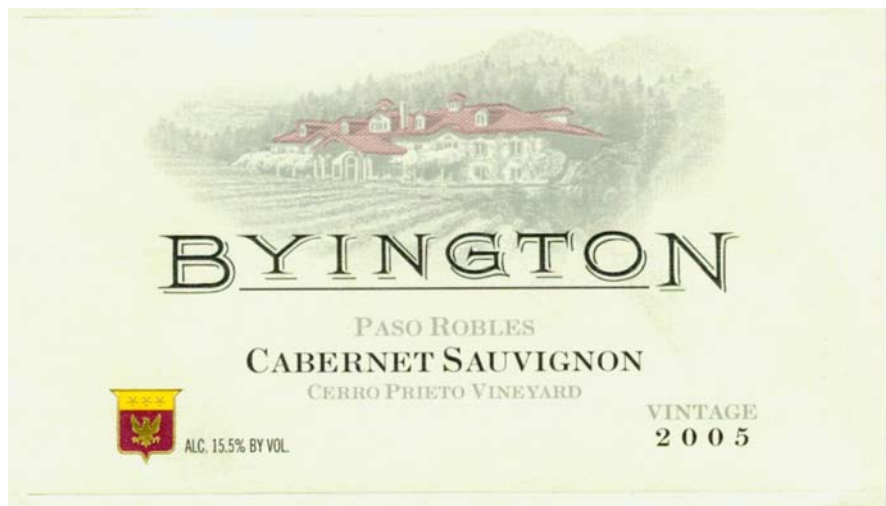


COLLECTOR'S RED



Appellation: Paso Robles

Vineyard Designation: Cerro Prieto

Production: 438 cases

Cerro Prieto is an amazing site with a steep ridge running through the center of the vineyard. The ridge creates several distinctly unique blocks within the vineyard, all producing dramatically different flavor profiles. This sort of diversity allows us to blend the individual blocks together to create an interesting multidimensional wine which is 100% Cabernet and 100% Cerro Prieto. We get all of the advantages of blending, yet still are able to create a wine that is so representative of this unique vineyard site.

I used a native fermentation for the 2005 Cerro Prieto Cabernet, relying on natural, wild yeasts to ferment the sugars in the grapes. This results in a higher level of glycerol creating a dense wine with a silky mouthfeel. The wine was then aged in American Oak barrels, one-third of which were new oak.

The color of the Cerro Prieto is that of the deepest, darkest garnet. The nose is concentrated chocolate and cinnamon spice with an woody character, perhaps cedar, that provides a depth and intensity. The soft tannins will allow this wine to age gracefully, but create such a smooth texture that it is hard to think about cellaring. I plan to buy one case to drink now, and another to cellar so I can enjoy the Cerro Prieto for years to come.