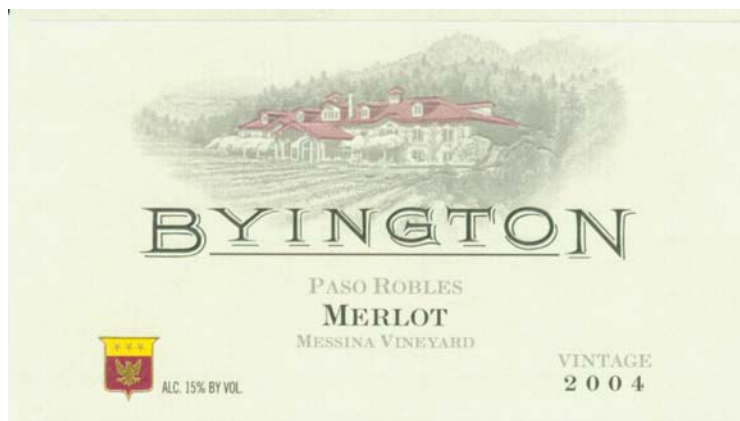


COLLECTOR'S RED



Appellation: Paso Robles
Vineyard Designation: Messina Vineyard
Production: 317 cases

The Messina vineyard is beautiful. It is a winemaker's dream - pristine, and well-manicured, yielding on average only three tons per acre. 2004 was an extremely hot growing season, resulting in intense fruit aromas and relatively high sugar content in the grapes. The Messina grapes were so intense when we got them that they had full color extraction after only two days.

The wine has so much potential! Currently the tannic structure is a little intense, but with time it will round out and create a silky smooth mouth feel. Such intense berry aromas, especially that of wild raspberry, will lend themselves well to long-term aging. There is also a spicy note on the nose of cinnamon, maybe even gingerbread. The berry punch of the Messina makes me think of enjoying this wine on a cold winter evening with a hearty filet mignon with a loganberry reduction, and of course good company.