

## Tasting Notes

Deep black fruit, spice, vanilla and toasted oak fragrances accompany concentrated black cherry and cocoa flavors with notes of cinnamon. All are framed by a layer of fine-grained tannins and thick, mouthcoating textures. The long finish of berries and oak complements beef kebobs, grilled polenta or wild mushroom and goat cheese ravioli. Aging potential: four to seven years.

—Winemaker George Troquato



## Technical Data

### APPELLATION:

Paso Robles

### HARVEST DATE:

August 29 – September 28, 2001

### VARIETAL CONTENT:

95% merlot, 5% cabernet sauvignon

### AGING:

14 months in American oak barrels (30% new)

### FINISHED ALCOHOL:

14.1%

### TOTAL ACID:

0.64g/100 ml

### pH:

3.57

### RELEASE DATE:

March 1, 2003

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# 2001 Paso Robles Merlot

## Cinnabar

VINEYARDS & WINERY

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## The Vineyards

Shadowing U.S. Highway 101, the Salinas River divides the Paso Robles Appellation into two distinct (and rival) subregions — the western highlands and the slightly warmer, less fertile eastern plateau. Selecting fruit from the east and the west gives us the best of both worlds.

Situated 20 miles from the ocean, Paso Robles boasts mild spring temperatures with occasional heat spikes in summer. The *Templeton Gap*, a break in the coastal range, allows a marine layer to move inland and lower temperatures starting on the west side in late afternoon. The region is generally clear and rarely obscured by clouds or fog.

JanKris Vineyard adds a core of well-structured fruit from the west side. Its 35 acres of merlot vines were planted on their own roots in the early 1970s. Grapes slowly ripen on the east-facing slopes and benefit from the air movement at 1,000-foot elevations. Peppered with limestone, the clay-loam soils are ideal for growing ripe, robust merlot.

A 13-acre block of merlot from EOS Vineyards was the principal fruit source from Paso Robles' east side. This site produces medium-bodied wines of supple texture and authentic varietal character. Sandy-clay-loam soils, high-density plantings and aggressive cultural practices help form tiny berries that are dark in color and deep in flavor.

A small quantity of cabernet sauvignon from the west side's Lock Vineyard adds structure, complexity and a pleasant mineral quality to the blend. Formerly an almond orchard, this hillside vineyard lies in rich chalky soils just west of downtown Paso Robles.



JanKris Vineyard

## Vintage

The 2001 Paso Robles growing season trailed a winter of warm temperatures and average rainfall. Mild and dry spring weather prompted early budbreak and later, incredible vine growth in April and May. Veraison was also early as the fruit continued to mature through a very warm summer. Temperatures dropped significantly just before harvest, slowing sugar production and increasing flavor development. Yields were well above average while the grapes showed exceptional structure and great depth of flavor.