

## Tablas Creek Vineyard

By Josh Raynolds

“Jason Haas told me that his family and the Perrins have now eliminated references to Château de Beaucastel from all of the Tablas Creek wines (the last to go was the Esprit de Beaucastel, which is now called Esprit de Tablas) because ‘the winery can by now stand on its own merit and successes without leaning on the Beaucastel name. We’re proud of being a leader in Paso and want everything we do to reflect that.’ As we tasted through this year’s set of releases, Haas commented that while the estate ‘has built its reputation on mourvèdre, in the cooler vintages, meaning lately, we lean much more heavily on grenache,’ which ripens earlier. In addition, grenache makes wines that are much more accessible and popular with the overwhelming majority of visitors that this popular destination regularly hosts. Indeed, on the Friday afternoon I visited here in September there were upwards of five dozen customers milling around the new tasting rooms and out on the patios, and they were buying.

### 2011 Tablas Creek Vineyard Roussanne Paso Robles

91

Light yellow-gold. Fresh peach and yellow plum on the floral-inflected nose. Fleshy and broad, offering intense pit fruit flavors and a bracing note of bitter lemon zest. Becomes spicier with air and finishes with lingering ginger, chamomile and citrus pith qualities. A powerful, lively, complex wine. Aged in a combination of *foudres*, puncheons and *barriques*.

### 2011 Tablas Creek Vineyard Esprit de Tablas Blanc Paso Robles

92

(64% roussanne, 26% grenache blanc and 10% picpoul): Pale gold. Vibrant citrus fruit and floral scents are deepened by notes of licorice and pear skin. Spicy, penetrating and pure, offering intense spice-accented lemon and green apple flavors and a hint of chamomile. Dry and nervy on the persistent, floral-driven finish.

### 2012 Tablas Creek Vineyard Vermentino Paso Robles

90

Pale yellow. Mineral-accented lime, quinine and white flowers on the perfumed nose. Juicy but supple, with bright acidity giving lift and focus to intense citrus pith, pear and nectarine flavors. Shows very good intensity and clarity on the floral-accented finish, which is long, tangy and refreshingly bitter.

### 2012 Tablas Creek Vineyard Patelin de Tablas Blanc Paso Robles

90

(52% grenache blanc, 27% viognier, 16% roussanne and 5% marsanne; all stainless steel): Light yellow. Deeply pitched orchard and pit fruit scents and flavors are lifted and sharpened by notes of lemon pith, white flowers and ginger. Juicy, incisive and refreshingly bitter, with a suave blend of richness and vivacity. A smoky nuance comes up on the finish, which shows strong cut and subtle herbacity. This will be highly adaptable at the table, especially with grilled poultry or fish, which is no surprise given its southern Rhône lineage.

### 2012 Tablas Creek Vineyard Côtes de Tablas Blanc Paso Robles

91

(34% viognier, 30% marsanne, 30% grenache blanc and 6% roussanne): Light yellow. Fresh pear, melon and iodine on the perfumed floral- and mineral-accented nose. Round, fleshy and smooth in texture, with spicy pear and citrus fruit flavors enlivened by tangy minerality. At once rich and lively, with very good finishing clarity and spicy persistence.

### 2012 Tablas Creek Vineyard Picpoul Blanc Paso Robles

90

Light yellow. Ripe peach, mango and honey on the perfumed nose. Creamy and expansive on the palate, with pliant tropical fruit flavors complicated by hints of acacia honey and tangerine. Smooth and shapely on the long and energetic finish.

### 2012 Tablas Creek Vineyard Grenache Blanc Paso Robles

90

Pale gold. Aromas of peach, floral honey, white flowers and licorice. Fat, supple and rich, with layered flavors of peach nectar and poached pear and a subtle herbal nuance. Finishes smooth and long, with powerful pit fruit flavors and a refreshing jolt of bitter lemon pith.

### 2012 Tablas Creek Vineyard Viognier Paso Robles

91

Vivid straw. Alluring scents of smoky citrus and pit fruits, with floral honey and leesy nuances adding complexity. Silky in texture and impressively energetic, with sappy peach and Meyer lemon flavors that expand and become more exotic with air. The lively, precise finish strongly repeats the lemon note and clings with authority.

### 2012 Tablas Creek Vineyard Roussanne Paso Robles

91

Bright yellow. Ripe peach and melon scents and flavors are complemented by notes of anise, jasmine and honey. Broad and fleshy, providing very good palate coverage and displaying smooth, velvety texture. Finishes spicy and long with lingering florality.

### 2012 Tablas Creek Vineyard Esprit de Tablas Blanc Paso Robles

92-93

(75% roussanne, 20% grenache blanc and 5% picpoul): Green-hued yellow. High-pitched aromas of tangerine, green apple and white flowers, with a gingery nuance adding complexity. Sappy, spicy and penetrating, offering intense citrus and orchard fruit flavors that put on weight with air. Firm and dry on a finish showing excellent clarity and persistence.



- 2012 Tablas Creek Vineyard Patelin de Tablas Paso Robles** 91  
(53% syrah, 27% grenache, 18% mourvèdre and 2% counoise): Brilliant ruby. Zesty redcurrant, cherry and floral aromas are deepened by notes of licorice and cola. Concentrated red fruit flavors show an appealing sweetness and pick up a spicy nuance with air. Juicy, penetrating and seamless on the finish, which is framed by supple, harmonious tannins. **This wine delivers outstanding value.**
- 2012 Tablas Creek Vineyard Cotes de Tablas Rouge Paso Robles** 91-92  
(60% grenache, 25% syrah, 10% counoise and 5% mourvèdre): Deep ruby. Cassis, licorice and bitter chocolate aromas, along with a hint of candied flowers. Densely packed but energetic, with dark fruit and licorice flavors complicated by a touch of rose. Very smooth and gently sweet, showing very good clarity on a broad, subtly tannic finish with repeating licorice and floral notes.
- 2012 Tablas Creek Vineyard Esprit de Tablas Rouge Paso Robles** 92-93  
(40% mourvèdre, 30% syrah, 21% grenache and 9% counoise): Saturated ruby. Fresh dark berries, licorice, olive, woodsmoke and candied violet on the deeply perfumed nose. Very concentrated and juicy but lively as well, with juicy acidity giving energy and lift to its blackberry and cassis flavors. The long, sappy finish features slow-building tannins, a touch of bitter chocolate and lingering smokiness.
- 2012 Tablas Creek Vineyard Panoplie Paso Robles** 94-95  
(70% mourvèdre, 20% grenache and 10% syrah): Bright violet color. Presents a heady, expansive bouquet of black and blue fruit preserves, incense and smoky Indian spices. Smooth, seamless and deeply pitched blueberry and cherry-cola flavors are complicated by notes of licorice and allspice, with a floral pastille note creeping out on the back half. Really stains the palate, finishing with superb clarity and length and velvety, harmonious tannins.
- 2011 Tablas Creek Vineyard Côtes de Tablas Rouge Paso Robles** 92  
(49% grenache, 28% syrah, 15% mourvèdre and 8% counoise): Bright ruby. A highly fragrant bouquet combines scents of raspberry, minerals, olive tapenade, lavender and Asian spices. Shows a suave blend of richness and energy, with appealing sweetness and intensity to its red berry preserve and floral flavors. The penetrating finish repeats the spicy note and clings tenaciously.
- 2011 Tablas Creek Vineyard Mourvèdre Paso Robles** 92  
Vivid ruby. Highly perfumed bouquet of blueberry, boysenberry, smoked meat and potpourri. Coats the palate with deep, velvety dark berry compote flavors and an exotic Asian spice quality. Picks up a bitter chocolate and floral pastille character on the youthfully tannic finish, which is sappy and persistent.
- 2011 Tablas Creek Vineyard Tannat Paso Robles** 91  
Inky purple. Black and blue fruits on the nose, with licorice and woodsmoke elements adding complexity. Sappy and expansive in the mouth, offering powerful blueberry and bitter cherry flavors and a touch of dark chocolate. Gains energy with aeration and finishes with strong cut, smooth tannins and an echo of sweet dark berries.
- 2011 Tablas Creek Vineyard En Gobelet Paso Robles** 93  
(33% mourvèdre, 31% grenache, 20% syrah and 16% tannat): Saturated ruby. Sexy red fruit, lavender and Asian spice scents show impressive clarity and vivacity. Sweet, expansive black raspberry and cherry flavors are complicated by notes of spicecake and orange pith, with a smoky nuance in the background. Supple and expansive, with superb finishing clarity and length and smooth, fine-grained tannins.
- 2011 Tablas Creek Vineyard Pinot Noir Full Circle Haas Vineyard Paso Robles** 91  
(made from vines planted in a 2.5 acre vineyard on Robert Haas's home property, which is in a cool spot near Templeton): Vivid red. Expressive aromas of redcurrant, cherry-cola and potpourri, lifted by an intense spiciness. Penetrating and precise, offering very deep, energetic black raspberry and boysenberry flavors. Fine-grained tannins add grip and structure to a long, sappy, focused finish that extends the dark berry and cola qualities.
- 2011 Tablas Creek Vineyard Esprit de Tablas Paso Robles** 92  
(40% mourvèdre, 30% grenache, 20% syrah and 10% counoise): Bright ruby. An assertively perfumed bouquet evokes black raspberry, blood orange and peppery spices, with suave floral pastille nuances. Spicy and precise on the palate, offering lively dark fruit and floral pastille flavors underscored by hints of white pepper and allspice. Finishes long and gently tannic, with powerful notes of spicecake and dark fruit preserves.
- 2011 Tablas Creek Vineyard Panoplie Paso Robles** 94  
(60% mourvèdre, 30% grenache and 10% syrah): Brilliant ruby. Captivating aromas of blueberry, cola, white pepper, Asian spices, incense and smoky minerals. Then sappy and penetrating on the palate, offering dark berry and cherry-cola flavors lifted by notes of lavender and star anise. Finishes smooth and impressively long, with a whiplash of dark berry and spice notes."

