

JEB DUNNUCK

TABLAS
CREEK
VINEYARD



This is another solid lineup by Jason Haas' Tablas Creek, which is in the northern part of Paso Robles. The 2014s are charming and forward, with the 2015s showing the more elegant, silky style of the vintage. Haas commented that the vines were tired in 2015 and stressed by the alternating hot/cold cycles that persisted throughout the year. While yields were lower in 2015, there was no pressure to harvest, which allowed them to do multiple passes and picks through each site.

Esprit de Tablas Blanc 2015 Tasted out of bottle, the 2015 Esprit de Tablas Blanc checks in as a blend of 55% Roussanne, 28% Grenache Blanc and 17% Picpoul Blanc raised mostly in foudre. It's a rich, beautifully layered and textured white that's going to shine on the dinner table. Exotic/tropical notes of orange blossom, caramelized lemons, wood smoke and spice give way to a medium to full-bodied, clean, impeccably balanced white that has plenty of density and length. It's beautiful today, yet has the capacity to evolve gracefully for 10-15 years. **93 points**

Roussanne 2015 The 2015 Roussanne is also terrific. Possessing tropical notes (I'd swear it was Viognier) of tangerines, buttered lemons, white peach and exotic flowers, this beauty is medium to full-bodied, textured and rounded on the palate, with moderate acidity and a fleshy, rich texture. I love its balance and it will keep for a decade or more as well. **90 points**

Patelin de Tablas Blanc 2016 Sourced from multiple sites in Paso Robles and a blend of 52% Grenache Blanc, 24% Viognier, 12% Roussanne, 9% Marsanne and the balance Clairette, the 2016 Patelin de Tablas Blanc is another winner from this estate. Clean, refreshing and vibrant, with lots of citrus, tangerine, hints of mint and even a touch of minerality, it's impeccably balanced, has both richness and freshness, integrated acidity and a clean finish. It's no brainer purchase to enjoy over the coming year. **89 points**

Viognier 2016 I love the 2016 Viognier, and it offers textbook (almost Condrieu-like) notes of apricots, citrus, spice and tangerine. Staying lively and clean on the palate, it possesses the richer texture of the variety, good acidity, and a clean finish. Drink it over the coming year or three. **90 points**

Côtes de Tablas Blanc 2016 A blend of 43% Viognier, 40% Grenache Blanc, 14% Marsanne and the rest Roussanne, the 2016 Cotes de Tablas Blanc is a straight up delicious, quaffable white that's ideal for drinking over the coming year or two. Pear, white flowers, hints of minerality and citrus all emerge from this medium-bodied, beautifully textured, yet lively and refreshing white. **91 points**

Roussanne 2016 Possessing a hint of green in its vibrant yellow color, the 2016 Roussanne is another vibrant, fresh, crisp white that offers notes of under ripe pineapple, citrus blossom and lime. Medium-bodied, racy and pure, with terrific acidity and a great finish, it's scheduled to be bottled in December and released next summer. **90-92 points**

Esprit de Tablas Blanc 2016 Sporting a light yellow/green tinged color, the flagship 2016 Esprit de Tablas Blanc is scheduled to be bottled in December. Still resting in foudre, it offers lots of lemon peel, citrus blossom, lime and hints of honeysuckle in a vibrant, fresh, lively and juicy style. It's going to benefit from a few years of bottle age and keep for a decade. **91-93 points**

Patelin de Tablas 2015 The entry level cuvee is the 2015 Patelin de Tablas and it's Syrah dominated in 2015, checking in as a blend of 51% Syrah, 31% Grenache, 14% Mourvèdre and 4% Cunoise. Tasting like a terrific Cotes du Rhone, it offers lots of black fruits, peppered meats, leather and dried herbs in its charming, medium-bodied, utterly delicious and gulpable personality. Drink this beauty over the coming 4-5 years, and if you forget bottles for even longer, it will still be good. **89 points**

Côtes de Tablas 2015 The 2015 Cotes de Tablas is largely Grenache (39%), with the balance 35% Syrah, 15% Cunoise and 10% Mourvèdre. Like all the wines from this estate, it's a lighter ruby colored and offers a pretty, elegant, medium-bodied and perfumed style to go with classic black cherry, kirsch, currants, leafy herbs and pepper. It picks up a terrific minerality with time in the glass, has ripe tannin and good acidity. The reality is it's not far off the quality of the more expensive cuvees, and it's the smart buy here. **90 points**

En Gobelet 2015 The 2015 En Gobelet (39% Mourvèdre, 29% Grenache, 18% Syrah and the rest Counoise and Tannat) sports a medium ruby color to go with terrific notes of black cherries, strawberries, candied orange rind, peppery herbs and mint. It's medium to full-bodied, elegant and seamless on the palate, with solid fruit and ripe tannin. It's a beautiful wine to enjoy over the coming decade as well. **92 points**

Mourvedre 2015 The 2015 Mourvèdre is impressive, and I love its character. Black raspberries, currants, seaweed wrapper (I almost wrote fish oil), and lots of beautiful spice and pepper notes give way to a medium to full-bodied, seamless, lightly textured and elegant Mourvèdre that's going to drink nicely for a decade. **91 points**

Esprit de Tablas 2015 A wine that's being bottled now, the 2015 Esprit de Tablas is a juicy, vibrant example of the cuvee that's made from a blend 49% Mourvèdre, 25% Grenache, 21% Syrah, 5% Counoise. It's the most Mourvèdre dominated example, and this is due to the later flowering varieties being less affected by shatter in the Spring. Black cherries, black raspberries, spring flowers, pepper and hints of earth all emerge from this youthful, medium to full-bodied, juicy wine that's going to need short term cellaring. **92-94 points**

Panoplie 2015 Made from 71% Mourvèdre, 24% Grenache and 5% Syrah, the 2015 Panoplie offers more structured and tannic grip as well as very classic notes of black cherries, black raspberries, dried earth and spring flowers. It's going to need 4-5 years of bottle age, but will be a classic, elegant, age-worthy Panoplie. **92-95 points**

Côtes de Tablas 2016 The 2016 Cotes de Tablas is another juicy, lively, berry scented red that offers medium-bodied richness, juicy acidity and a fine, crisp, clean style. It has plenty of youthful tannin, but should round into form nicely. **89-91 points**

En Gobelet 2016 The 2016 En Gobelet is a deeper, richer wine that offers vibrant notes of blackberries, violets, raspberries and spice to go with a medium to full-bodied, supple, downright elegant style. Made from 39% Mourvèdre, 30% Grenache, 20% Syrah and the balance Counoise and Tannat, all from dry farmed, head trained vineyards, it has terrific balance, fine, building tannin and a great finish. It plays in the style of the estate, yet has terrific length and balance. **91-93 points**

Name TBD 2016 They're still working on the official name but the 2016 Name TBD is 59% Syrah, 20% Grenache, 19% Terret Noir and 2% Roussanne that's made with the goal to showcase Syrah, yet with another dimension added by the addition of Terret Noir. Aged mostly in barrique and fermented with roughly 25% whole clusters (which is high for this estate), it sports a deeper ruby color as well as terrific notes of black raspberries, spice, pepper and loads of violet and floral notes. Elegant, silky and seamless, with terrific purity, elegant and complexity, it's a gorgeous wine. **92-94 points**

Esprit de Tablas 2016 Incorporating the highest percentage of Syrah ever, the 2016 Esprit de Tablas checks in as a blend of 46% Mourvèdre, 31% Syrah, 18% Syrah and the rest Counoise, aged in varying sized containers before blending and spending a year in foudre, its ruby color is followed by a vibrant, pretty barrel sample that has lots of red and black fruits, peppery herbs, violets and spring flower aromas and flavors. Medium-bodied, elegant and pretty, with a grippy, structured vibe, it will benefit from 2-3 years of cellaring and keep for a decade or more. **91-93 points**

Panoplie 2016 The deep purple colored 2016 Panoplie (66% Mourvèdre, 25% Syrah and 9% Grenache) is another fresh, elegant, structured example of this cuvee. Black fruits, blueberries, peppery herbs, wood smoke and earthy minerality all flow to a medium to full-bodied, nicely structured red that has ample concentration, present, yet ripe tannin and a great finish. **93-95 points**

