

**Tablas Creek**

Located on the North West side of Paso Robles, Tablas Creek is a joint venture between the Perrin family (Chateau Beaucastel) and Robert Hass, founder of Vineyard Brands. Believing that the climate and high PH limestone soils of western Paso closely matched those of the Southern Rhone Valley, they imported several clones from Chateau Beaucastel and have been focusing on Rhone varietal wines since 1989 (first vintage wasn't until later.) During my visit here, I was able to taste through most of the estate's 2007 wines and these are unquestionably the best since 2004 (that's as far back as I've tasted.) The wines have a ripeness, purity and freshness that's reminiscent of the 2007 Chateauneuf-du-Papes and not only do they offer amazing quality, they represent fantastic value! The 2007 Cotes du Tablas is a back up the truck wine and the top Esprit de Beaucastel Rouge will hold its own in any company. The 2006 vintage isn't far behind and the 2005s are aging beautifully. This estate is not to be missed.

Website: [www.tablascreek.com](http://www.tablascreek.com)

<b>2008 Tablas Creek Cotes de Tablas Blanc</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>2008 Tablas Creek Picpoul Blanc</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>2008 Tablas Creek Rosé</b>	<b>Rose</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>2007 Tablas Creek Grenache Blanc</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>2007 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>2007 Tablas Creek Côtes de Tablas</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>93+</b>
<b>2007 Tablas Creek Grenache</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>2007 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>2006 Tablas Creek Grenache</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>2006 Tablas Creek Syrah</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>2006 Tablas Creek Côtes de Tablas</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>2006 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>92</b>
<b>2005 Tablas Creek Syrah</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>2005 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel</b>	<b>Red</b>	<b>94</b>

**2008 Tablas Creek Cotes de Tablas Blanc** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$25**  
 A blend of 42% Viognier, 26% Roussanne, 21% Marsanne and 11% Grenache Blanc, the 2008 Tablas Creek Cotes de Tablas Blanc offers up lovely lemon curd, buttered peaches, citrus oil and toasted spice aromatics, medium to full body and a clean, long finish. The wine picks up more mineral nuances with air and has a rich, balanced character. I'd drink these over the next 3 to 5 years. **(90 pts.)**

**2008 Tablas Creek Picpoul Blanc** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$21**  
 The 2008 Tablas Creek Picpoul Blanc shows subtle aromatics of crisp citrus, green apples and lemon notes and in the mouth, the wine has vibrant acidity, beautiful balance and a clean, long finish. **(89 pts.)**

**2008 Tablas Creek Rosé** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$27**  
 An outstanding wine, the 2008 Tablas Creek Rosé offers up lots of strawberry and cherry fruit aromas that are mixed with nice underlying minerals, underbrush and spice notes. It's medium to full bodied in the mouth with sweet fruit, fresh acidity and a clean, enjoyable finish. Enjoy this over the next year. **(90 pts.)**

**2007 Tablas Creek Grenache Blanc** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$27**  
 A big wine, the 2007 Tablas Creek Grenache Blanc shows a floral, perfumed character with white fruits, toast, minerals and spices that lead into a full bodied palate. This has a big, mouth filling

texture but is balanced and has enough acidity to keep the wine fresh and vibrant. I'd drink these over the coming year or two. **(89 pts.)**

**2007 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$40**

There are a little over 2000 cases of the 2007 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc and it is a blend of 68% Roussanne, 22% Grenache Blanc and 10% Picpoul Blanc. The wine offers up mineral driven aromatics of buttered bread, peach and stone fruits that are intermixed with serious stone, slate and chalky notes. Full bodied on the palate with serious concentration, the wine is balanced, rich and very long on the finish. Drink this over the next 5 to 10 years. Tasted twice. **(93 pts.)**

**2007 Tablas Creek Côtes de Tablas** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$20**

A rock star wine and an unbelievable value, the 2007 Tablas Creek Côtes de Tablas shows ripe, kirsch dominated aromatics of earth, fresh cut flowers, roasted meat and licorice that lead into a full bodied, structured, rich palate. This has the structure to age but is a stunning drink now! Back up the truck. **(93+ pts.)**

**2007 Tablas Creek Grenache** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$35**

Better than the '06, the 2007 Tablas Creek Grenache is filled with kirsch, roasted herbs, licorice, meat and fresh cut flower aromas that carry into a medium to full bodied palate. Rich, balanced and with sweet, pure fruit, serious underlying structure and a long finish, this should drink beautifully over the next 10+ years. **(92 pts.)**

**2007 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$50**

A spectacular wine, the 2007 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel is stacked with amazingly concentrated kirsch and raspberry aromas that are supported by exotic spice, licorice and floral notes. Despite the ripeness level, the wine remains fresh and vibrant with nice acidity, full body, sweet fruit, perfect structure and a long finish. Lovers of the top 2007 Chateaneufs need to try this wine. This is a superb wine to drink over the next 10 to 15 years! **(96 pts.)**

**2006 Tablas Creek Grenache** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$35**

The 2006 Tablas Creek Grenache has 10% Syrah rounding out the blend and shows plenty of kirsch and cranberry aromas intermixed with meaty, licorice and underbrush notes. The palate is surprisingly structured with medium body, sweet fruit and a long, tannic finish. Give this puppy a year to shed some tannin and then drink it over the next 5 to 8 years. **(89 pts.)**

**2006 Tablas Creek Syrah** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$35**

Not quite up to the '05, the 2006 Tablas Creek Syrah has interesting aromatics of spiced meat, blackberries, earth and spice, medium body, a smooth texture and a balanced, long finish. **(89 pts.)**

**2006 Tablas Creek Côtes de Tablas** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$20**

A blend of 72% Grenache, 11% Syrah, 9% Mourvèdre and 8% Cunoise, the 2006 Tablas Creek Côtes de Tablas is a knockout bargain with perfumed aromatics of toasted spice, macerated cherries, meat, underbrush and graphite. Medium to full bodied on the palate, there's gobs of ripe fruit, nice acidity, a smooth texture and plenty of length on the finish. Drink this over the next 4 to 6 years. **(90 pts.)**

**2006 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$50**

The 2006 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel offers up a structured, balanced and slightly earthy character with spice, licorice sweet fruit, flowers and herb laced aromatics and flavors. It's balanced, rich and should offer lots of pleasure over the coming 8 to 10 years. **(92 pts.)**

**2005 Tablas Creek Syrah** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$35**

A ripe, meaty wine, the 2005 Tablas Creek Syrah has roasted herbs, flowers and resin aromatics, medium to full body and a long finish where ripe tannins show up. Drink this over the next 5 to 8 years. **(90 pts.)**

**2005 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) **\$50**

A fantastic wine, the 2005 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel sports awesome aromatics of black cherry, earth, meat, licorice, roasted herbs and garrigue. The palate is medium to full bodied with a dense, structured feel, fantastic balance and a long finish. The structure and balance here should have this aging well for a number of years. **(94 pts.)**