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BY KAREN MACNEIL

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TABLAS CREEK VINEYARD

“Côtes de Tablas” 2024

Adelaida District, Paso Robles, CA

There’s a kind of deep, earthy sexiness and spiciness to the red wines of southern France—especially those from Châteauneuf-du-Pape. *This* is California’s “Châteauneuf.” In fact, Tablas Creek was one of the early wineries specializing in Grenache, Syrah, Mourvèdre, and Cunoise—the varieties usually blended together in Châteauneuf. Tablas Creek has this blend down pat, and its Côte de Tablas is a sensational example with a

California stamp of richness. Beautiful cherry confiture flavors are followed by waves of flavors and aromas reminiscent of incense, spice, black licorice, orange zest, sea salt, and vanilla. One taste and you’re swept away. It’s hard to make a wine that’s both delicious and intriguing at the same time. This is one of those wines.

95 points Karen MacNeil / WineSpeed

Available at [Tablas Creek](#)

WINE QUIZ

The name “Burgundy” comes from:

- A. The medieval French word for a small village, similar to the Old English “burg”
- B. A nomadic German tribe which once settled in the area
- C. The Latin word Burgarius which was the name for a Roman province that once extended over most of central France
- D. The name for early French rural governing bodies which were made up of noble councilmen who were known as Burrs

Fascinating FACTS

THE ORIGIN OF THE 750ML WINE BOTTLE

Every week or every month (or every day) we open wine bottles. But where did the familiar 750ml wine bottle come from? The answer may lie in ancient Greek poetry. Eubulus, the Greek poet of the fourth century BCE, summarized the Greek penchant for moderation when he attributed these words to Dionysus:

Three kraters [bowls used for wine] do I mix for the temperate: one for health, which they empty first, the second to love and pleasure, the third to sleep. When this bowl is drunk up, wise guests go home. The fourth krater is ours no longer, but belongs to hubris, the fifth to uproar, the sixth to drunken revel, the seventh to black eyes, the eighth brings the police, the ninth belongs to vomiting and biliousness, and the tenth to madness and the hurling of furniture.

Reflecting on the Greek wisdom of taking no more than three drinks, Hugh Johnson, the esteemed British wine expert, notes that throughout history three drinks have been considered the model for moderation. Johnson goes on to suggest that from this historic counsel is derived the wine bottle, which just happens to contain 750 milliliters (25 fluid ounces), or about three glasses each for two people.

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