

Tablas Creek	2012	Vermentino	White	88
Tablas Creek	2012	Patelin de Tablas Blanc	White	(89-91)
Tablas Creek	2012	Viognier	White	(88-90)
Tablas Creek	2012	Roussanne	White	(89-91)
Tablas Creek	2012	Côtes de Tablas Blanc	White	(89-91)
Tablas Creek	2012	Esprit de Tablas Blanc	White	(91-94)
Tablas Creek	2011	Roussanne	White	88
Tablas Creek	2011	Marsanne	White	90
Tablas Creek	2011	Côtes de Tablas Blanc	White	89
Tablas Creek	2011	Esprit de Tablas Blanc	White	93
Tablas Creek	2012	Patelin de Tablas	Red	(88-90)
Tablas Creek	2012	Côtes de Tablas	Red	(91-93)
Tablas Creek	2012	Esprit de Tablas	Red	(92-94)
Tablas Creek	2012	Panoplie	Red	(93-95+)
Tablas Creek	2011	Patelin de Tablas	Red	90
Tablas Creek	2011	Côtes de Tablas	Red	90+
Tablas Creek	2011	Mourvèdre	Red	91

Tablas Creek	2011	En Gobelet	Red	92+
Tablas Creek	2011	Esprit de Tablas	Red	93
Tablas Creek	2011	Panoplie	Red	96
Tablas Creek	2011	Tannat	Red	90
Tablas Creek	2010	Grenache	Red	92+
Tablas Creek	2010	Syrah	Red	91
Tablas Creek	2010	Mourvèdre	Red	91
Tablas Creek	2010	En Gobelet	Red	92+
Tablas Creek	2010	Esprit de Beaucastel	Red	94
Tablas Creek	2010	Panoplie	Red	95+
Tablas Creek	2005	Esprit de Beaucastel	Red	95
Tablas Creek	2003	Esprit de Beaucastel	Red	94
Tablas Creek	2002	Esprit de Beaucastel	Red	95
Tablas Creek	1997	Rouge	Red	93
Tablas Creek	2007	Panoplie	Red	99
Tablas Creek	2003	Panoplie	Red	97

“Certainly a reference point for Paso Robles, Tablas Creek continues to produce wines in a restrained, age-worthy and savory style that sets them apart. Both 2010 and 2011 are strong here, with the 2010s showing additional depth and concentration and the 2011s showing pretty, elegant profiles. I suspect the 2011s will be on faster evolutionary tracks, but given their balance, they could surprise in the cellar. In addition to their current releases, I was able to do short verticals of their Esprit de Beaucastel (which is now called Esprit de Tablas) and Panoplie. To say I came away impressed would be an understatement.

Starting out the 2012 whites, the **2012 Vermentino** is a lively, fresh white that offers up slightly exotic aromas and flavors of lime, mint, toasted nut and spice as well as a decidedly fresh palate feel. Juicy, crisp and downright gulpable, it should be consumed over the coming year or two at most. Drink now-2014. Tasted from tank, the **2012 Patelin de Tablas Blanc** checks in as a blend of 52% Grenache, 27% Viognier, (5% Marsanne) and the rest Roussanne that’s aged all in tank. Pretty and elegant, with plenty of white peach, citrus rind and spice, this rounded, supple white has a hard-to-resist texture and while fresh and clean enough to drink nicely on its own, should also be versatile on the dinner table. Drink it over the coming year or two. Drink 2014-2015. Also tasted from barrel, the **2012 Viognier** is a tropical, pure and juicy effort that gives up plenty of mint, lemon peel and spice as well as a medium-bodied, rounded and nicely textured mouthfeel. It too should be consumed within a year or two of release. Drink 2014-2016. Aged half in foudre and half in barrels and demi-muids, the **2012 Roussanne**, tasted out of barrel, turns up the richness dial with ripe golden fruits, brioche, lemon custard and spice that flow to a medium to full-bodied, rich and voluptuously textured palate. Clean, pure and lively on the acid front, it should be an outstanding effort that will handle richer fare nicely. A 3-5 year drink window seems safe. Drink 2014-2019. Made from 34% Viognier, 30% Marsanne, 30% Grenache Blanc and the balance Roussanne, the **2012 Côtes de Tablas** (barrel sample) looks outstanding and, as normal, should represent a superb value. Stone fruits, green herbs, crushed flowers, fresh cream and mineral all emerge from the glass and this medium to full-bodied white has a layered, rich texture that cleans up nicely on the finish. It will drink well for 2-3 years after release. Drink 2014-2016. More focused and classy, the **2012 Esprit de Tablas Blanc** (tasted out of barrel) checks in as a foudre-aged (a small about of barrels were used) blend of 75% Roussanne and 25% Grenache Blanc. Beautifully textured and rich, yet with smoking precision and focus, it possesses abundant peach and lemon rind aromas

and flavors, solid structure and a great mid-palate. Give it a year or so once released and enjoy it through 2022. Drink 2014-2022.

Moving to the 2011s, which were tasted from bottle, the **2011 Roussanne** offers up an exotic, honey-laced bouquet of ripe golden fruits, chamomile, baked bread, mint and honey blossom to go with a medium-bodied, rich and layered palate feel. Showing good acidity through the finish, it is slightly disjointed at the moment and needs another year or two in the cellar to flesh out. It should drink nicely through 2018. Drink 2014-2018. Showing better at this stage than the Roussanne, the **2011 Marsanne** is a beauty. Made in a fresh, lively style, with clean melon, white peach, honeysuckle and hints of nuttiness on the nose, it flows onto the palate with a pure, beautifully balanced profile that carries integrated acidity, superb purity of fruit and a great finish. While I would lean toward drinking over the coming 3-4 years, it should have an interesting evolution beyond that as well. Drink now-2023. The **2011 Côtes de Tablas Blanc** is a blend of 27% Viognier, 26% Grenache Blanc, 25% Marsanne and 22% Roussanne. Ripe, rounded and supple, with plenty of white peach and stone fruits, melon and assorted floral nuances on the nose, it flows onto the palate with a medium-bodied, rich texture that carries good overall freshness and focus. Beautifully drinkable, it’s a delicious effort that should be consumed over the coming year. Drink now-2014. Easily my favorite of the 2011 whites, and comprised of 64% Roussanne, 26% Grenache Blanc and 10% Picpoul Blanc, the **2011 Esprit de Tablas Blanc** offers up a beautifully clear, detailed and balanced profile with plenty of white peach, orange rind, buttered toast, cream and hints of hazelnut all emerging from the glass. Medium-bodied, silky and polished on the palate, with excellent acidity and freshness, this beauty can be consumed now, or cellared for a decade. Drink now-2026.

Looking at the 2012 reds, which were all tasted out of barrel, the **2012 Patelin de Tablas** offers beautiful Grenache character with violet and floral-tinged aromas and flavors, medium body and loads of fruit and texture. It will be a delicious, easy-drinking blend geared for drinking over the coming 3-4 years. Drink 2014-2017. Really showing its Grenache character, the **2012 Côtes de Tablas** is soft and fruit-forward, with complex wild herb and spice giving way to a supple, pure and polished palate that firms up nicely on the finish with ripe tannin. Showing the purity and texture of the vintage, it too will drink nicely on release, yet should have 4-5 years or more of longevity due to its balance. Drink 2014-2019. More serious and rich, the **2012 Esprit de Tablas** exhibits Mourvèdre dominated aromas and flavors, with plenty of tree bark, crushed flowers, underbrush and black and blue fruit to go with



medium to full-bodied richness and depth. There's another level of mid-palate richness and tannin here, so I suspect it will benefit from short-term cellaring. Drink 2016-2022. More similar in style to the Esprit de Tablas than normal, with big Mourvèdre dominated blue fruits, wild herbs, roasted meats, chocolate and licorice, the **2012 Esprit de Tablas Panoplie** has superb density, medium to full body and a knockout finish. I suspect this will differentiate itself more once in bottle. Drink 2016-2027.

Looking at the 2011 reds and Paso Robles' take on a Côtes du Rhone (and a good one), the **2011 Patelin de Tablas** (52% Syrah, 29% Grenache, 18% Mourvèdre and a splash of Cunoise) offers up a great bouquet of crunchy black cherry fruit, roasted herbs, pan drippings and licorice that gives way to a medium-bodied, fresh and lively palate feel. Upfront, loaded with fruit, and yet also lively and fresh, this beauty should be purchased by the case and consumed over the coming 3-4 years. Drink now-2017. Slightly more fresh and focused, as well as structured, the **2011 Côtes de Tablas** is a blend of 49% Grenache, 28% Syrah, 15% Mourvèdre and 8% Cunoise. Very fragrant on the nose, with red and black fruits, underbrush, crushed stone-like minerality and assorted floral nuances, it hits the palate with a medium-bodied, fleshy texture that hides a firm undercurrent of tannin and acid. Give bottles another year or so in the cellar and enjoy over the following 4-5 years or more. Drink 2015-2020. The **2011 Mourvèdre**, which was the only single variety release in 2011, is a beautiful wine. Medium-bodied and balanced, with juicy acidity, it offers up solid black cherry, pepper, tree bark and assorted meaty, savory aromas and flavors as well as solid richness and length. It should have a solid decade of ultimate longevity. Drink 2015-2021. Even better, the **2011 En Gobelet** is a smoking effort that exhibits complex black cherries, roasted meat, roasted herbs, licorice and big minerality on both the nose and palate. Structured and tannic, with solid concentration and length, it will benefit from another year or two in bottle and have a decade or more of evolution. Drink 2015-2021. A blend of 40% Mourvèdre, 30% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 10% Cunoise, the **2011 Esprit de Tablas** has a core of sweet black raspberry and cassis that is cut by more savory, meaty nuances, pepper and spice. Medium to full-bodied, rich and beautifully textured, with ripe tannin, it's a more streamlined, fresh version of the cuvée that relies more on elegance and complexity than sheer depth and richness. It will have 10-12 years of longevity. Drink 2015-2023. Just bottled at the time of this tasting, the **2011 Esprit de Tablas Panoplie** might end up being the wine of the vintage from Paso Robles. Primarily Mourvèdre, it offers up knockout black and red fruits, crushed flowers, roasted meat, licorice and spice to go with a full-bodied, balanced and textured palate that builds in richness and depth as it sat in the glass. As with the straight Esprit de Tablas, it is a savory effort that has superb complexity and big structure. Give it another 2-3 years and enjoy over the following decade. Drink 2015-2025. Finishing off the 2011s, the **2011 Tannat** is an outstanding effort that has more tannin than you can shake a stick at. Licorice, tar, black cherry and leather all emerge here and the rusticity of the variety is managed beautifully on the palate. Medium to full-bodied, rich and layered, it needs a hearty meal and should have a decade or so of longevity. Drink 2014-2021.

Leading off the 2010s and a superb Grenache that's overflowing with sweet red and black berry fruit, spice, underbrush, new saddle leather and hints of spring flowers on the nose, the **2010 Grenache** is medium to full-bodied, gorgeously textured and possesses a rich, full mid-palate that carries into a structured, lengthy finish. Count me a fan. This is easily the best vintage of this cuvée to date. It will benefit from another year or two in the cellar and have upwards of 10-12 years of ultimate longevity. Drink 2015-2022. Superb, the **2010 Syrah** offers up classic Syrah dark fruits, spice box, roasted meat and hints of licorice to go with a medium to full-bodied feel on the palate. Showing the cooler nature of the vintage with its clean, focused feel, this outstanding effort has a solid kick of tannin that emerges on the finish. Give it another 2-3 years of bottle age and enjoy over the following 5-7 years. Drink 2015-2022. The **2010 Mourvèdre** is a classic example of the variety. Offering up plenty of red and black berry fruit, underbrush, tree bark and underlying meatiness, it firms up brilliantly on

the palate and has superb purity of fruit, firm tannin and integrated acidity. It's an impressive effort that shines for its purity and focus more than overflowing richness. It should drink nicely for over a decade. Drink now-2022. A blend of 37% Grenache, 28% Mourvèdre, 13% Syrah, 12% Cunoise and 10% Tannat, the **2010 En Gobelet** comes all from head-trained, dry-farmed vines and was aged all in foudre and larger French oak puncheons. A big, structured effort, it delivers classic southern Rhône-like aromas and flavors of black cherries, saddle leather, licorice, crushed flowers and mineral to go with a medium to full-bodied, well textured, yet structured feel on the palate. Possessing ample tannin and integrated acidity, it should hit peak form 4-5 years after the vintage and drink nicely through 2024. Drink 2014-2024. Opening up considerably since I tasted it from barrel, the **2010 Esprit de Beaucastel** is a superb blend of 45% Mourvèdre, 30% Grenache, 21% Syrah and 4% Cunoise that was aged all in foudre. It delivers loads of ripe blackberry, plum, licorice, roasted herbs and hints of flowers to go with a medium to full-bodied, rich and mouth-filling profile on the palate. Textured, layered and rich, with a firm underlying core of tannin, this superbly balanced beauty should be given 2-3 years of bottle age and then consumed over the following decade. Drink 2015-2025. Showing slightly more focus and structure than the straight Esprit de Beaucastel, the **2010 Esprit de Beaucastel Panoplie** (60% Mourvèdre, 30% Grenache and 10% Syrah) offers up a thrillingly rich and polished profile of blackberry, licorice, roasted herbs, spice box and assorted cured meat-like qualities on the nose. This is followed by a full-bodied wine that has layers of fruit and texture, building richness and a blockbuster finish where the quality of the wine really shows. While approachable now due to its fruit and texture, it should ideally be given 3-4 years of bottle age. It will drink well through 2030. Drink 2016-2030.

We finished off the tasting with small verticals of their Esprit de Beaucastel and Panoplie. From a warm vintage, the **2005 Esprit de Beaucastel** is drop-dead gorgeous! Oozing notions of saddle leather, currants, cherries and smoked meats, it is fully resolved and supple on the palate, with full-bodied richness and depth. I seem to score this wine higher each time I taste it (tasted twice in 2009 and rated 93 and 94 points) and while it's in the middle of its drink window, it should hold for a number of years. Drink now-2020. From a warm vintage, the **2003 Esprit de Beaucastel** has fantastic, complex aromas and flavors, beautiful richness and a deep, layered mid-palate. Proprietor Jason Haas compares this to the 2012 and, certainly, its voluptuous texture and richness are similar. It's drinking brilliantly and I would consume bottles over the coming handful of years, although it will last longer. Drink now-2018. Showing fantastically is the big, rich **2002 Esprit de Beaucastel**, which offers up a youthful array of ripe black fruits, licorice, singed herbs and background meatiness to go with full-bodied richness and depth on the palate. I like where it's at now, but there is still notable structure here and it should evolve gracefully going forward. Drink now-2017. Mature and evolved, the **1997 Rouge** offers alluring spice, leather, underbrush and sweet red fruits as well as a medium to full-bodied, balanced and supple mouthfeel. Past peak maturity but still an elegant, classy effort that's drinking beautifully, it shows the age-ability of this cuvée. It's not going to fall off a cliff anytime soon, yet I would still drink bottles sooner rather than later. Drink now.

Looking at the Mourvèdre-dominated special cuvée, the **2007 Esprit de Beaucastel Panoplie** is off the charts and up with some of the greatest wines I've tasted from Paso Robles. Massive in every way, yet never heavy or ever putting a foot wrong, it delivers thrilling red and black currants, leather, licorice, *garrigue* and roasted meat aromas and flavors that flow seamlessly to a full-bodied, mouth-filling red that has incredible richness and depth, sweet tannin and good acidity. A thrill ride of a wine and a joy to drink, it should continue to blow minds for another decade or more. Drink now-2023. Shockingly good, the **2003 Esprit de Beaucastel Panoplie** dishes out mature, yet still lively and fresh aromas and flavors of new leather, spice box, licorice, cured meats, black currants and licorice. This gorgeously full-bodied wine fills the mouth with fruit, is ethereally textured and has blockbuster length. At maturity, it should continue to drink nicely for another 5-8 years. Drink now-2021."

