

Tablas Creek Vineyard

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By Stephen Tanzer

2002 Tablas Creek Vineyard Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc Paso Robles

89

(\$35; a blend of 70% roussanne, 25% grenache blanc and 5% viognier) Subtle aromas of dried fruits and nuts. Juicy, ripe and dry, with citrus fruit flavors and a suggestion of toasted grain. Offers a sake-like saline character and a slightly spirity, very dry finish. Intriguing, rather sophisticated wine in a distinctly dry Old World style.

2001 Tablas Creek Vineyard Cotes de Tablas

91

(\$22; a blend of mourvedre, syrah, grenache and counoise) Red-ruby color. Cherry, raspberry, flowers, dark chocolate and a hint of caramelized steak on the nose. Sweet, dense and rich, with vibrant flavors of sappy red berries, cherry skin, leather, spices and pepper. Dry but quite broad and ripe. This offers lovely energy in the middle palate and impressive thickness, sweetness and length on the back. As with most wines from this estate, more French than New World in texture and style.