

SCORES

07/2025

2023	Esprit de Tablas	Red	95
2022	Esprit de Tablas	Red	94
2021	Esprit de Tablas	Red	96+
2020	Esprit de Tablas	Red	91
2019	Esprit de Tablas	Red	96
2017	Esprit de Tablas	Red	95
2015	Esprit de Tablas	Red	96
2013	Esprit de Tablas	Red	93
2011	Esprit de Tablas	Red	93
2009	Esprit de Beaucastel	Red	95
2008	Esprit de Beaucastel	Red	93
2006	Esprit de Beaucastel	Red	95
2005	Esprit de Beaucastel	Red	93
2004	Esprit de Beaucastel	Red	96
2003	Esprit de Beaucastel	Red	92
2002	Esprit de Beaucastel	Red	94
2000	Esprit de Beaucastel	Red	93

REVIEWS

2023 Esprit de Tablas

95 points

“The 2023 Esprit de Tablas, tasted from barrel, is a deep magenta color with a spicy array of black raspberry, cedar chips and dusty rose. This is soothingly round and pliant with fresh acidity and a cascade of ripe black fruits. Edgy tannins amass through the finish as the 2023 tapers off long and staining. A blackberry concentration and a web of fine tannins frame the experience beautifully.”

2022 Esprit de Tablas

94 points

“The 2022 Esprit de Tablas has mellowed in an enticing way, delivering a perfumed bouquet of roses, geraniums, wet slate and dried black cherries. Cooling acidity and inner violet florals impart a graceful character as a wave of tart wild berry and blackberry fruits slowly saturates. This enshrouds the palate in fine-grained tannins and wild blueberries as it finishes with excellent length and a gentle inner sweetness. The 2022 is a darling with both upfront appeal and cellar potential.”

2021 Esprit de Tablas

96+ points

“Dark and brooding in the glass, the 2021 Esprit de Tablas smolders up with an array of dried violet and lavender tones, crushed ashen stone and hints of white pepper. Silken in feel, this impresses with its balance of concentration and textural depth, all riding a wave of mineral-inflected red and black fruits. It’s dramatically long and structured. Fine-grained tannins flex upon the senses as blue and purple inner florals slowly fade. There’s so much potential here, but it will be many years before the 2021 reveals all of its hidden charms. Despite a heat spike in July, the 2021 vintage was moderate with a cool harvest period that gifted Tablas Creek with an exceptionally healthy selection of fruit.”

2020 Esprit de Tablas**91 points**

“The 2020 Esprit de Tablas slowly unfolds in the glass with a mix of dusty black cherries, blood orange and sweet herbs. It’s lifted in feel with crisp mineral tones and rosy inner florals that perfectly complement its core of tart wild berry fruit. More lifted than the surrounding vintages yet excellently concentrated, the 2020 tapers off with exceptional length and crunchy tannins as hints of tart cranberry fade. The 2020 is the product of a warm, late season, with the added challenge of smoke from raging wildfires. While it comes across as quite docile, I find no issues with taint.”

2019 Esprit de Tablas**96 points**

“The 2019 Esprit de Tablas opens with a youthfully coiled blend of black cherries and dusty rose complicated by nuances of spiced citrus and clove. It’s seamlessly silky in feel, nearly dense, with crisp mineral tones up front and brisk acidity invigorating its tart wild berry fruits. A gentle tug of fine tannin frames the finish as the 2019 tapers off long and fresh. The 2019 is a cool-toned and classic Esprit de Tablas that’s built for the cellar. I expect this to mature evenly for another 15 years or more. The 2019 growing season started cool but ended quite warm, leading to a compressed harvest, but the fruit that came into the winery was remarkably healthy and perfectly ripe.”

2017 Esprit de Tablas**95 points**

“The 2017 Esprit de Tablas smolders up with a rich and beguiling blend of sage and rosemary, giving way to cedar box and ashen stone before arriving at dried black cherries. This shows amazing freshness despite the overall style of the year, with vibrant acidity and mineral tones adding depth to a mass of ripe red and blue fruits. The 2017 boasts incredible length, leaving a balsamic tinge and nuances of blackcurrant as a sensation of liquid stone lends a cooling effect. This vintage will forever be remembered for its dramatic heat spike in August, but the cool September conditions and increased rainfall throughout the season provided enough relief to bring in a healthy set of fruit. The 2017 is a tremendous success for the vintage.”

2015 Esprit de Tablas**96 points**

“The 2015 Esprit de Tablas is still youthfully coiled, with an intense mix of crushed stone, grilled herbs and spice engulfing crushed blackberries. This comes to life on the palate, cooling, fresh and quite classic in feel, with ripe wild berry fruits and mineral tones beneath an air of pretty violet florals. Still structured with crunchy tannins, the 2015 keeps the mouth watering for more as nuances of citrus-tinged raspberry slowly fade. Another few years should place the 2015 into a perfect drinking window, and I’d expect it to stay there for well up to a decade. Of note, this was the first vintage that Tablas Creek farmed through 100% biodynamic practices. It was also a low-yielding year, following four vintages of drought.”

2013 Esprit de Tablas**93 points**

“Masses of dried black cherry meet baking spice, a dusting of cocoa and balsam herbs as the 2013 Esprit de Tablas smolders up from the glass. This maintains excellent balance and is more lifted than anticipated, with brisk acidity guiding crisp red and black fruits. Edgy tannins remain as the 2013 finishes with a tart cranberry concentration and lingering hints of clove. Despite the warm and drought-stricken growing season, the 2013 comes across as harmonious and is well on its way to perfect maturity.”

2011 Esprit de Tablas**93 points**

“The 2011 Esprit de Tablas tempts the imagination with dark depths of crushed blackberry, grilled herbs, incense and exotic spice. It’s elegant and velvety in feel. A dense wave of ripe red and black fruits envelops the palate, offset by a twang of citrus and a core of brisk acidity. Sweet tannins frame the wine as balsamic tones and hints of plum sauce linger through the long and impactful finish. The 2011 remains a remarkably pretty Esprit de Tablas, the result of a relatively cool season with well-timed rain throughout harvest.”

2009 Esprit de Beaucastel**95 points**

“Darkly floral and intense, the 2009 Esprit de Beaucastel bursts from the glass with a whiff of balsamic spice that gives way to sage, pine shavings and dried black cherries. This is cool-toned, fresh and remarkably balanced. Crisp red and black fruits ride a wave of tantalizing acidity as violet inner florals swirl throughout. Edgy tannins linger, offset by a solid core of primary concentration as the 2009 tapers off with exceptional length, slowly working its way to maturity. This is an exceptional wine from a difficult season. The 2009 vintage was the third straight drought year, with a severe heat spike in September and a deluge of ten inches of rain on October 13th. Multiple passes during harvest were necessary, and some fruit required drying on straw mats. Luckily, ideal weather followed until the end of harvest.”

2008 Esprit de Beaucastel**93 points**

“Raspberry and cherry sauce are complicated by spiced orange peels and nuances of tobacco as the 2008 Esprit de Beaucastel smolders up from the glass. It is silken in feel, with lifting acidity and bright red berry fruits that take on a tinge of balsamic spice toward the close. Mineral tones mingle with edgy tannins as the 2008 finishes with zesty length. Saturated concentration keeps the tension high. This is more mature than expected in its bouquet but remains fresh throughout. That said, the 2008 provides gobs of pleasure today. Proprietor Jason Haas explained that the 2008s were heavily filtered as the winery strove to avoid Brettanomyces.”

2006 Esprit de Beaucastel**95 points**

“The 2006 Esprit de Beaucastel is impossible to ignore, with an enticing bouquet that mixes raspberry sauce, grilled herbs, cloves and sweet lavender. It's elegant in feel with soothingly round textures and admirable weight, while a core of vibrant acidity propels ripe wild berry fruits across the palate. The 2006 displays fantastic balance, finishing long and still lightly structured as sweet tannins engulf a consistent echo of blackberry and cherry. This is on a lovely path to maturity, enjoyable today but with several years of evolution in store for patient collectors. The 2006 is the result of a difficult year with a late flowering and a very hot summer and rain in early October. Ideal conditions followed, which saved the vintage from total failure.”

2005 Esprit de Beaucastel**93 points**

“The 2005 Esprit de Beaucastel is earthy in the glass, showing its maturity through a blend of ashen stones, dried flowers, incense and cedar. It's rich in feel with velvety textures and masses of ripe dark red fruits, while a core of brisk acidity works to maintain balance. Slightly tart flavors reveal a mineral component as hints of sour citrus and tart cranberry fade through the medium-length finale. Jason Haas explained that some 2005s can show a bit of Brett, which indeed comes through in this wine's bouquet but adds more character than distraction. This was an abundant vintage with a late harvest.”

2004 Esprit de Beaucastel**96 points**

“The 2004 Esprit de Beaucastel takes its time blossoming in the glass but is worth waiting for, as coaxing reveals depths of dried black cherry, rosemary, dusty earth and florals. This is pure elegance, with seamlessly silken textures and polished red and blue fruits swirling across a stream of vibrant acidity. Nuances of brown spice combine with blood orange through the long and still lightly tannic finale. Hints of citrus-tinged raspberry resonate for well up to a minute. This beautifully balanced and well-constructed Esprit de Beaucastel still has a bright future ahead of it. Anyone with the 2004 in their cellar should be smiling from ear to ear.”

2003 Esprit de Beaucastel**92 points**

“Dusty dried flowers and spiced citrus peel give way to red plums as the 2003 Esprit de Beaucastel slowly awakens in the glass. This is nearly velvety in feel, with lifting acidity and pliant wild berry fruits adding contrast. A slight saline tinge forms through the finish as the 2003 tapers off with admirable length and a touch of currant. This comes across as a bit tired in comparison to the surrounding vintages, but it remains perfectly enjoyable in its own right.”

2002 Esprit de Beaucastel**94 points**

“The 2002 Esprit de Beaucastel is delicate in the glass as rich black raspberry meets sage and cedar on the nose. It's soothingly round and cooling to the senses with lavender-laced wild berry fruits and a gentle tug of residual tannin. Violet inner florals amass over a tart blackberry concentration as the 2002 finishes long with lasting tension. This is perfectly mature yet in no danger of decline.”

2000 Esprit de Beaucastel**93 points**

“A deep garnet color, the 2000 Esprit de Beaucastel is beautifully mature. Cedar shavings and flowery underbrush complicate nuances of dried cherry, spice and blood orange. This possesses a lovely inner sweetness and soothing round textures as inner violet florals resonate over a collection of tactile mineral tones. The 2000 still shows tension amidst perfectly resolved tannins, lingering earth tones and hints of spice. Enjoy this today or over the next three to five years.”