

**Tablas Creek Vineyard, Paso Robles (California) "Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc" 2007 (\$40):**

The Perrin family, owners of one of Châteauneuf-du-Pape's stellar properties, Chateau Beaucastel, and Robert Haas, founder of the import company Vineyard Brands, joined forces to establish Tablas Creek to produce Rhône-style wines in California. This one, their signature white wine, emulates a white Châteauneuf-du-Pape with its blend of Roussanne (68%), Grenache Blanc (22%) and Picpoul Blanc. A richer and larger version of its French counterpart, it retains freshness, avoiding the pitfall of coming across as heavy. Its lanolin-like texture supports its appealing spiced honey flavors. With remarkable balance and length, it is one of the most successful Rhône-style white wines from California.

92 [Michael Apstein](#) May 19, 2009

**Tablas Creek Vineyard, Paso Robles (California) "Côte de Tablas Blanc" 2007 (\$25):**

Many consumers avoid white wines--either French or Californian--made from grapes associated with the Rhône Valley because they can be marred by a heaviness. This one is not. This blend of Viognier (38%), Marsanne (25%), Roussanne (20%) and Grenache Blanc delivers lovely aromatics of honeysuckle and white flowers followed by delicate peach and apricot flavors all supported by vibrant acidity that keeps lively. It's a marvelous harmony of floral notes and fruit without a trace of heaviness.

90 [Michael Apstein](#) May 26, 2009

**Tablas Creek Vineyard, Paso Robles (California) Rosé 2008 (\$22):**

Often one of the most flavorful and interesting rosé wines made in California, this was crafted from 58% Mourvèdre, 32% Grenache and 10% Counoise. Strawberry is the lead fruit note but not the only impression, as the note of watermelon printed on the back label seems quite plausible--even if only due to psychological suggestion. The balance of acidity to the weight and sweetness of the fruit is very nicely struck, and the only reservation with which I was left was that one cannot gulp this with impunity on account of 14.5% stated alcohol.

90 [Michael Franz](#) Jun 2, 2009