

“Once again, Tablas Creek has turned out a mind-bending number of fabulous wines, from delicious entry-level whites and reds all the way up to the top selections, which remain very reasonably priced considering the quality. General Manager Jason Haas describes 2012 as a vintage with generous yields. Haas adds that 2013 followed a similar ripening curve, but the vines were into the second year of a drought cycle, so yields were lower than 2012 by about 20-25%. In addition to these current and future releases I also tasted a handful of library wines, which I include here for further context and ease of reference. – *Antonio Galloni, July 2014*

White Wines

2012 Patelin de Tablas Blanc The 2012 Patelin de Tablas Blanc is an attractive, entry-level Rhône white laced with lemon peel, grapefruit, wet stones and hints of earthiness. This is an excellent choice for drinking over the next few years. The blend is 52% Grenache Blanc, 27% Viognier, 16% Roussanne and 5% Marsanne. **88**

2012 Côtes de Tablas Blanc Lemon peel, grapefruit, white flowers and slate are all very much alive in the 2012 Côtes de Tablas Blanc, a wine that balances mineral and more textured, oily nuances with notable class and brilliance. The long, creamy finish is especially of note in this gorgeous, entry-level white from Tablas Creek. **90**

2012 Roussanne Light floral honey, apricots and jasmine are some of the many notes that flesh out in the 2012 Roussanne. The textured, honey, intensely floral style is hugely appealing, while the more typical, stony notes appear on the expressive finish. This is a fabulous showing from Tablas Creek. **90**

2012 Esprit de Tablas Blanc The 2012 Esprit de Tablas Blanc is subtle, floral and lifted. Flowers, mint, lemon and spices meld together in a gracious, impeccably refined Roussanne-based white Rhône loaded with class and style. The 2012 Esprit is 75% Roussanne, 20% Grenache Blanc and 5% Picpoul Blanc. **92**

2013 Vermentino Bright lemon, grapefruit, white flowers and crushed rocks are some of the notes that inform the 2013 Vermentino. Vibrant and energetic in the glass, the 2013 delivers tons of personality and class. **89**

2013 Patelin de Tablas Blanc The 2013 Patelin de Tablas Blanc is a fabulous value from Tablas Creek. White stone fruits, spices, mint and soft, floral notes meld together in a caressing, expressive white loaded with class. The 2013 Patelin is pure pleasure, not to mention a huge overachiever. **89**

2013 Picpoul Blanc The 2013 Picpoul Blanc is one of the brightest, most energetic wines in the Tablas Creek range. Almonds, lemon, white flowers and crushed flowers inform the chiseled, nuanced finish. This is a great summertime white. **89**

2013 Viognier Rich and textured in the glass, the 2013 Viognier is surprisingly ample in this vintage. Sweet floral and honeyed notes flesh out in a broad, layered Viognier that stands out for its personality. This is an especially structured Viognier. Today, distinctly stony mineral notes are more dominant over the perfumed floral notes that are typical of Viognier. Tablas Creek only bottles their Viognier alone in a handful of years, so it's great to see the wine back in the lineup. Prior to the 2012 and 2013, the last Viognier was the 2006. **90**

2013 Marsanne Smoke, slate, savory herbs and lemon inform the 2013 Marsanne. This decidedly laid-back, nuanced, subtle wine has plenty of class, not to mention terrific overall balance. Bright, saline notes inform the tense, vibrant finish. The Marsanne was done almost entirely in oak. **90**

2013 Côtes de Tablas Blanc A broad, deeply expressive, generous white, the 2013 Côtes de Tablas Blanc is all about volume and texture. The flavors are bright, savory and mineral, but at the same time all the elements are shaped by the warm, dry growing season. This is a decidedly big, creamy wine for the year, yet all the elements are in balance. The blend is 39% Viognier, 29% Grenache Blanc, 20% Marsanne and 12% Roussanne. **90+**

2013 Roussanne Honey, almonds, ripe pear and peach notes flow effortlessly from the 2013 Roussanne. Ample and broad throughout, the 2013 stands out for its varietal expression, depth and pure personality. Hints of spice add nuance on the resonant finish. There is a lot to like here. The 2013 was done in a combination of foudre and puncheons. The 2013 will be bottled either later in 2014 or early 2015. **(90-92)**

2013 Esprit de Tablas Blanc Dried pear, crushed flowers, savory herbs and mint emerge from the 2013 Esprit de Tablas Blanc. This is a much more laid back, mineral-driven wine next to the straight Roussanne, probably because of the blend, which includes 21% Grenache Blanc and 8% Picpoul Blanc, along with aging in larger, neutral puncheons. **(89-91)**

Rosés

2013 Patelin de Tablas Rosé The 2013 Patelin de Tablas Rosé is a light, floral Grenache-based wine to drink over the next year or two. Crushed flowers, sweet red berries and mint lift from the glass. This is an especially delicate, pretty Rosé built on perfume. **88**

2013 Dianthus The 2013 Dianthus is Tablas Creek's top Rosé. This year the Dianthus is a bit less colored and intense than last year, which moves it closer stylistically to the Patelin Rosé. Pomegranate, cranberry and sweet floral notes all meld together on the silky, layered finish in this pretty, Mourvèdre-based Rosé. Personally, I found a bit more character and individuality in the 2012. **89**

Red Wines

2011 Côtes de Tablas Dark berries, flowers, mint and sweet spices jump from the glass in the 2011 Côtes de Tablas. The 2011 is quite a bit more intense, focused and also brighter than the 2012 because of the low yields of that year. Drink this resonant, mid-weight red over the next few years. The blend is 49% Grenache, 28% Syrah, 15% Mourvèdre and 8% Counoise. **92**

2011 Mourvèdre Smoke, game, tobacco, incense and scorched earth are some of the many notes that explode from the 2011 Mourvèdre. Layered and beguiling, the Mourvèdre is wonderfully complex in this vintage. The tannins could use another year to melt away, but there is a lot to like here. **91**

2011 Esprit de Tablas Dark red cherries, mint, sage, tobacco, licorice and game take shape in the 2011 Esprit de Tablas. The mid-weight, translucent style is quite Burgundian. Distinctly wild, Mourvèdre-inflected nuances are laced throughout the expressive, perfumed finish. The blend is 40% Mourvèdre, 30% Grenache, 20% Syrah and 10% Cunoise. **93**

2011 Panoplie The 2011 Panoplie is one of the darker, richer wines in the Tablas Creek range. Dark red cherry, game, plum, smoke, leather and menthol flesh out in a deep, resonant wine that is at once pliant yet quintessentially representative of the cool vintage. This is pure elegance. In 2011, Panoplie is 60% Mourvèdre, 30% Grenache and 10% Syrah. **94**

2012 Patelin de Tablas The 2012 Patelin de Tablas is a gorgeous wine and a fabulous value. Sweet, pliant and expressive, the 2012 offers lovely depth and nuance. Plum, sweet tobacco, earthy notes and crushed flowers flesh out on the textured, inviting finish. This is a gorgeous, value-priced red from Tablas Creek. The Patelin is made from purchased fruit, much of it from estates that planted clonal material sourced from Tablas Creek's nursery. In 2012 the blend is 53% Syrah, 27% Grenache, 18% Mourvèdre and 2% Counoise. **90**

2012 Côtes de Tablas The 2012 Côtes de Tablas is wonderfully lifted and floral in the glass. Sweet red-toned fruit, crushed flowers, mint and anise are some of the notes that inform a weightless, feminine wine built on silkiness. The 2012 is impeccably balanced and classy to the core. The 2012 is quite a bit brighter and more floral than the 2011, partly the result of the higher percentage of Grenache in the blend, but also a reflection of the year. The blend is 60% Grenache, 25% Syrah, 10% Counoise and 5% Mourvèdre. **92**

2012 Grenache The 2012 Grenache is a gorgeous wine with fabulous varietal character and compelling balance. Deep, intense yet also showing a sense of restraint, the Grenache impresses for its nuance and pedigree. The Tablas Creek range is so vast I imagine the risk is a few wines get overlooked. I hope that won't be the case with the 2012 Grenache, as it truly is superb. **94**

2012 Mourvèdre Savory herbs, mint, new leather, smoke and tobacco form a hugely attractive tapestry of aromas and flavors in the 2012 Mourvèdre. A dark, mysterious wine, the 2012 is also quite deep, nuanced and impeccable in its balance. There is plenty of varietal character in the glass. **(91-93)**

2012 Tannat The 2012 Tannat is naturally one of the richer, more concentrated wines in this range. Super ripe blue/black fruits, menthol, cloves, lavender and licorice all burst from the glass as this extroverted wine shows off its intense personality. The typically firm Tannat tannins are there, but they are nearly buried. **(91-93)**

2012 En Gobelet The 2012 En Gobelet wraps around the palate with gorgeous depth and richness. Plum, tobacco, menthol, new leather and spice notes flesh out in a rich, enveloping wine endowed with tons of depth and nuance. The 2012 stands out for its pure resonance. A hint of crushed flowers adds nuance on the finish. **(92-94)**

2012 Esprit de Tablas A big, explosive wine, the 2012 Esprit de Tablas is warm and ample on the palate, very much in the style of the year, yet there is plenty of power lying in reserve. In 2012, Syrah plays a larger role than in both the 2010 and 2011, which is felt in the wine's broad, expansive personality. This is going to be a fascinating Esprit to follow over the coming years. **(93-95)**

2012 Panoplie A rich, ample wine, the 2012 Panoplie is also a great example of the year. Here the fruit is sweet and textured to the core, yet there is plenty of underlying energy in support. The textured, explosive finish is a thing of beauty. I expect the 2012 to be compelling pretty much upon release. Actually, it already is. **(94-96)**

2013 Patelin de Tablas The 2013 Patelin de Tablas is quite a bit darker and richer than is typically the case. Syrah is center stage in a deep, almost brooding wine endowed with notable richness and intensity. Hints of tar, smoke, leather and black stone fruits are layered into the finish. **(89-91)**

2013 Côtes de Tablas The Côtes de Tablas super-polished and refined. The flavors are especially dark and intense this year, even though Grenache is the principal grape. Dark red and blue fruit, lavender, rose petal and spice notes are all laced together. This is one of the more laid back wines of the year at Tablas Creek, but there is good structure to match the wine's understated personality. **(90-92)**

2013 Mourvèdre Tablas Creek's 2013 Mourvèdre is deep, layered and intense. Varietal notes and a distinctly forward, fruit-driven personality are the signatures in a wine that should drink well with minimal cellaring. **(90-92)**

2013 Syrah Dark red and black stone fruits, black pepper, wild flowers, lavender, smoke and tobacco are some of the many notes that take shape in the 2013 Syrah. With time in the glass, the Syrah shows multiple dimensions of expression and considerable nuance, hinting at what appears to be a very promising future. The full-bodied, broad finish alone holds considerable appeal. **(92-94)**

2013 En Gobelet Floral and spice overtones add nuance to a core of explosive fruit in the 2013 En Gobelet. This is another wine that impresses for its pure power and intensity. At the same time, the 2013 is going to need time in barrel and likely in bottle as well to fully come together. Today, it is the wine's overall structure that dominates. **(91-93)**

2013 Esprit de Tablas Sweet floral notes meld into a core of expressive red-hued fruit in the 2013 Esprit de Tablas. In this vintage, the Esprit is mid-weight and gracious, with gorgeous purity of fruit. The wilder notes typical of Mourvèdre haven't developed yet. It will be interesting to see what the next year brings. This is another gorgeous, impeccable wine from Tablas Creek. **(92-94)**

2013 Panoplie The 2013 Panoplie is shaping up to be a true jewel of a wine. Lavender, dried tobacco, plum and black cherries all add nuance as the wine opens up. The flavors are bright, chiseled and full of energy. In 2013, Panoplie represents the intersection of power and finesse. **(94-96)**

Sweet White Wine

2012 Vin de Paille Lemon oil, orange blossom, pastry, mint, jasmine, lime emerge from the 2012 Vin de Paille, 100% Roussanne made from air-dried fruit. This moderately sweet dessert wine is an excellent choice for drinking over the next few years. The flavors are bright and floral throughout. **92**

Library Wines

2005 Esprit de Beaucastel The 2005 Esprit de Beaucastel is a real head-turner. Vibrant and perfumed to the core, the 2005 races across the palate with dark red and black fruit, tobacco, spices and leather. For a wine of its age the 2005 is endowed with superb energy and vibrancy that serves to balance some of the more overt elements. Sweet floral notes add perfume and further layers of nuance. This is a fabulous showing from Tablas Creek. **95**

2004 Esprit de Beaucastel Tablas Creek's 2004 Esprit de Beaucastel is now fully mature. The 2004 is an especially ripe, silky Esprit with plenty of complexity to match its racy, super-super-ripe personality. It's hard to see the 2004 improving much from here, but it is beautiful today. **92**

2002 Esprit de Beaucastel The 2002 Esprit de Beaucastel is in a great place today. The primary fruit has now softened, while tertiary notes have become much more expressive. Sage, tobacco, dried herbs, smoke and leather flesh out in an intense, concentrated wine built on power. The 2012 should continue to offer fabulous drinking for another decade, perhaps more. **94**

