

Tablas Creek Vineyard, Paso Robles (California) "Esprit de Beaucastel" 2004 (\$45): Fair enough. This wine -- a blend of Mourvedre, Syrah, Grenache, and Counoise - - certainly does embody the sprit of Châteauneuf-du-Pape's famed Chateau Beaucastel. Spirit, though, is not the same as character, and in terms of flavor profile, the wine is very much true to its California home. Fruit, not earth, constitutes its initial appeal, and one can sense the sun-filled Golden State summer in every sip. But notes of herbs, baking spice, leather and moiré undergird all that fruit, giving the wine real complexity and nuance. Impressively structured and balanced, this is one of America's finest Rhône reds. **92** [Paul Lukacs](#) *Apr 17, 2007*

Tablas Creek Vineyard, Paso Robles (California) Roussanne 2005 (\$27): A substantial white, marked by pear, apple, and melon fruit flavors, all enhanced by nutty secondary notes, this wine impresses most because it manages to seem elegant and refined as well as powerful. Beautifully structured and impeccably balanced, it is a delight to drink now, and should be even better with six months to a year of bottle age. Today's top Roussannes from the Central Coast taste extremely impressive -- moreso than the better publicized Viogniers from the region. **92** [Paul Lukacs](#) *Apr 17, 2007*

Tablas Creek, Paso Robles (California) Rosé 2006 (\$27): As we head into warmer weather here in the Northern Hemisphere, good, dry rosés will start assuming a more dominant place on the dinner table. But since I'm looking for more than simply a light and refreshing quaff, I'm planning to twist the cap off of many bottles of Tablas Creek Rosé in the coming months. Fusing together the pretty flavors of Grenache and Counoise with the richness of Mourvèdre, this wine has substance as well as sprightliness. Another thing that sets it apart is that veers more towards notes suggesting watermelon and cherry, with less emphasis on the strawberry side of rosé's typical profile. [Marguerite Thomas](#) *Apr 24, 2007*

Tablas Creek Vineyard, Paso Robles (California) "Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc" 2005 (\$28): An absolutely delicious wine that compares favorably to the very best whites from Chateauneuf-du-Pape, this is a blend of Roussanne 70%, Grenache Blanc 25%, Picpoul Blanc 5%. Generously fruity but also quite subtle and nuanced, it is medium-bodied and very nicely integrated. Floral accents work nicely with the fruit notes, and fresh acidity enlivens the finish. **91** [Michael Franz](#) *May 8, 2007*

Tablas Creek Vineyard, Paso Robles (California) Grenache Blanc 2005 (\$27): I don't know about you, but Grenache Blanc isn't a varietal that I usually order, especially when it comes with a fairly steep price tag like this one. I think of the grape as a fairly dull one -- low in acidity, with a certain fleshy appeal, but lacking in distinctive flavor. That may be true of many (I now hesitate to say most) renditions, but it's not at all true of this wine -- which is a real head-turner. Instead, Tablas Creek's 2005 Grenache Blanc offers delicate but still substantial citrus and apple flavors, enhanced by hints of almonds and anise, with a soft texture and an extremely satisfying finish. I would recommend drinking this very impressive wine over the next year or two, if only because I have no idea how it will age and can't imagine it tasting much better than it does right now. **91** [Paul Lukacs](#) *Jun 19, 2007*