



Tablas Creek Vineyard, Paso Robles (California) Syrah 2006 (\$35):

Perhaps because the estate's vines are now entering a more mature phase, the wines from Tablas Creek seem to be taking a step up from being consistently good to being consistently exemplary in the ranks of California producers working with Rhône varieties. This bottling shows dark, dense fruit that offers very expressive aromas and flavors of black raspberries and plums, along with subtle undertones of roasted meat, spices, black pepper and toast. Ripe and rich but not chunky or obvious, it is braced by soft tannins and a judiciously-applied touch of oak in the finish.

92 [Michael Apstein](#) *Jan 13, 2009*