

Jeb Dunnuck's   
**THE RHONE REPORT**

Issue 10, December 2011

## TABLAS CREEK

2010 Tablas Creek Patelin de Tablas Blanc	White	89
2010 Tablas Creek Côtes de Tablas Blanc	White	89-91
2010 Tablas Creek Grenache Blanc	White	88-90
2010 Tablas Creek Marsanne	White	89-91
2010 Tablas Creek Picpoul Blanc	White	88-90
2010 Tablas Creek Roussanne	White	90-92
2010 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc	White	91-93
2010 Tablas Creek Rosé	Rosé	90
2010 Tablas Creek Patelin de Tablas	Red	88-90
2009 Tablas Creek En Gobelet	Red	93
2009 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel	Red	94-96
2009 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel Panoplie	Red	94-96

“A joint venture between Château de Beaucastel (Châteauneuf-du-Pape) and Robert Haas (US importer and owner of Vineyard Brands), this western Paso estate consistently produces a bevy of outstanding wine. Focusing on estate vineyards and aging in a combination of mainly neural wood and larger foudre, the style here is more savory and complex than your textbook Paso Robles estate. These also age beautifully. In addition to these new releases, a large number of ‘08s and ‘09s, which are still current releases, were reviewed in last year’s Rhone Ranger Issue. I was able to retaste the full lineup on the most recent Central Coast trip, yet the wines showed consistently with the prior reviews so I opted to leave them out of this Issue. Nevertheless, this is a top Central Coast estate and readers should not miss these wines. Website: [www.tablascreek.com](http://www.tablascreek.com)

**2010 Tablas Creek Patelin de Tablas Blanc** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) The freshly bottled 2010 Tablas Creek Patelin de Tablas Blanc, a blend of 50% Grenache Blanc, 33% Viognier, 10% Roussanne, and 7% Marsanne, is fresh and crisp, sporting loads of juicy peach, pear, and green herb characteristics, medium-body, and an overall balanced, yet edgy and mineral-driven profile. Straight up delicious and a perfect house

white, this should be purchased in multiple bottle lots and consumed over the coming 1-2 years. (89 pts.)

**2010 Tablas Creek Côtes de Tablas Blanc** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) The 2010 Tablas Creek Côtes de Tablas Blanc, tasted out of tank, is a blend of 54% Viognier, 30% Grenache Blanc, 8% Marsanne, 8% Roussanne that’s fermented and aged all in stainless steel. Showing great aromatics of ripe peaches, pineapple, spring flowers, and hints of crème, this medium-bodied, juicy white hits the palate with a fresh, clean texture, beautiful fruit, and an overall delicious, drink me now feel. Always a solid white, this should be purchased by the case and consumed over the coming 1-2 years. (89-91 pts.)

**2010 Tablas Creek Grenache Blanc** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) More racy, with textbook Grenache Blanc notes of lime, herbs, citrus, and crushed stone like minerality, the 2010 Tablas Creek Grenache Blanc, also tasted out of tank, is medium-bodied and shows solid mid-palate fruit and juicy acidity on the finish. Enjoy bottles over the coming 2-3 years. (88-90 pts.)

**2010 Tablas Creek Marsanne** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) The first vintage for this

cuvée, the 2010 Tablas Creek Marsanne delivers an exotic, perfumed bouquet with notions of orange rind, golden fruits, melon, and creamy nuances. While showing that Marsanne richness, this stays beautifully fresh and balanced, possessing a medium-bodied, fleshy texture, and juicy acidity. While it will certainly be fun to follow a couple bottles of this over the coming decade, I think this will be best enjoyed in its first 2-3 years of life. (89-91 pts.)

**2010 Tablas Creek Picpoul Blanc** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) A beautiful white that had me looking for another taste was the 2010 Tablas Creek Picpoul Blanc. Bright and edgy, with lime, citrus, pepper, and pineapple like aromas and flavors, this shows a solid dose of richness on the palate, yet finishes cleanly. Delicious and easy drinking, it should be enjoyed over the coming 2-3 years as well. (88-90 pts.)

**2010 Tablas Creek Roussanne** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) A step-up from the other whites and boasting beautiful notes of golden fruits, crème, and poached pear, the 2010 Tablas Creek Roussanne, aged in puncheons, is well structured and balanced on the palate, showing admirable depth and class, as well as loads of minerality on the finish. It should have 3-5 years of longevity, if not longer. (90-92)

**2010 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) A blend of 60% Roussanne, 35% Grenache Blanc, and 5% Picpoul Blanc, with each variety aged in a combination of containers, the 2010 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc is an elegant, yet richly styled white that possesses beautiful stone fruits, lemon rind, crème, and mineral-driven aromatics. On the full side of medium-bodied, with plenty of texture and an overall classy, energetic feel, this beauty should have 3-4 years of prime drinking, yet also has the structure to evolve for upwards of a decade. (91-93 pts.)

**2010 Tablas Creek Rosé** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) An excellent rosé that delivers solid fruit, yet hangs onto a crisp, detailed feel, the 2010 Tablas Creek Rosé exhibits copious amounts of wild strawberry, assorted flowers, and spice aromatics, a medium-bodied, crisp palate, and plenty of edgy acidity that cleans up the finish nicely. Enjoy a bottle over the coming 12-18 months. (90 pts.)

**2010 Tablas Creek Patelin de Tablas Rouge** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) A promising blend of roughly 40% Syrah, 35%

Grenache, 15% Mourvèdre and 10% Counoise, the value priced 2010 Tablas Creek Patelin de Tablas Rouge is a perfect entry in to Rhône varieties with upfront, meaty aromas of ripe black fruits, leather, and earth carrying into a medium to full-bodied, round, supple palate that just begs to be drunk. Friendly and delicious, with loads of charm, this should be a crowd pleaser for 3-5 years. (88-90 pts.)

**2009 Tablas Creek En Gobelet** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) The 2009 Tablas Creek En Gobelet, first made in the '07 vintage and coming from head-pruned and dry farmed vines, is an outstanding, yet small production blend of 56% Mourvèdre, 23% Tannat, 21% Grenache. A ripe, big wine, with savory aromas of black cherry, tar, earth, meat, and violets all emerging from the glass, this medium to full-bodied red has a mouth filling, substantial texture, loads of structure, and long finish. Slightly masculine and rustic at the moment, with big fruit and chewy tannin, this needs 3-4 years to round into shape. It should drink admirably for 10-12 years or longer. (93 pts.)

**2009 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) Tasted as a final blend but not yet bottled, the 2009 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel is a classic (for Beaucastel anyways) blend of 40% Mourvèdre, 28% Syrah, 27% Grenache, 5% Counoise that's aged all in larger foudre. Possessing an elegant, yet seriously structured profile, with earthy black cherry, leather, and assorted meaty nuances, as well as a medium to full-bodied, firm palate presence, this top Rhône blend will need bottle age to really shine. While it would not hurt to try this right on release, it will ideally not be touched for 4-6 years. (94-96 pts.)

**2009 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel Panoplie** (USA, California, Central Coast, Paso Robles) Much more dense and concentrated, with layers of fruit and texture, the 2009 Tablas Creek Esprit de Beaucastel Panoplie, a blend of 65% Mourvèdre, 26% Grenache, and 9% Syrah, has fleshed out considerably since I tasted it last year. It shows a dense array of black licorice, asphalt, earthy black fruits, and spice that has real weight and heft behind it. This full-bodied, decadently styled blend has loads of fruit that is, at the moment, partially concealing the back end tannin and structure. Framed like the straight Esprit de Beaucastel, yet with more flesh on its frame, this will actually be more approachable in its youth due to the wealth of fruit, yet won't be at its best until a decade after the vintage. (94-96 pts.)”

