

Tablas Creek 2014	Patelin de Tablas Blanc	White	90
Tablas Creek 2014	Côtes de Tablas Blanc	White	(90-92)
Tablas Creek 2014	Vermentino	White	90
Tablas Creek 2014	Grenache Blanc	White	(89-91)
Tablas Creek 2014	Marsanne	White	(90-92)
Tablas Creek 2014	Picpoul	White	(88-90)
Tablas Creek 2014	Roussanne	White	(89-92)
Tablas Creek 2014	Esprit de Tablas Blanc	White	(92-94)
Tablas Creek 2013	Patelin de Tablas	Red	88

Tablas Creek 2013	Côtes de Tablas	Red	90
Tablas Creek 2013	Mourvèdre	Red	89
Tablas Creek 2013	Syrah	Red	91+
Tablas Creek 2013	Esprit de Tablas	Red	(92-94)
Tablas Creek 2013	Panoplie	Red	(94-96)
Tablas Creek 2014	Patelin de Tablas	Red	(87-89)
Tablas Creek 2014	Côtes de Tablas	Red	(90-92)
Tablas Creek 2014	Esprit de Tablas	Red	(93-96)
Tablas Creek 2014	Panoplie	Red	(95-97)

“I had a terrific visit with Jason Haas and Neil Collins at Tablas Creek, and while I think their 2012s are a step back, the 2013s are superb, and the 2014s look even better. In addition, I was able to do a full 2005 retrospective, but will publish that as a stand-alone report at a later date.

I loved the **2014 Patelin de Tablas Blanc** and readers looking for an incredibly high-quality house white should jump on this. Textured, layered and with plenty of fruit, it stays clean and crisp with good freshness in its lime, buttered citrus and mint-laced aromas and flavors. It has the freshness to shine on its own but the depth and class to shine on the dinner table. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2016.

As good, if not better, than the 2013, the **2014 Côtes de Tablas Blanc** is a Viognier-heavy blend that incorporates 30% Grenache Blanc and 23% Marsanne. One of the more reticent 2014 whites, it offers plenty of stone fruits, lemon, citrus and floral notes go with a full flavored, rich and expansive feel on the palate. It should come together nicely once in bottle and have an easy 3-4+ years of longevity. Anticipated maturity: 2016-2020.

The completely stainless-steel raised **2014 Vermentino** offers crisp and steely notes of lime, citrus rind, mint and herbs in its beautifully fresh, balanced, juicy and refreshing style. It’s a perfect summer drinker to serve chilled. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2016.

The **2014 Grenache Blanc** is one of the more racy and juicy whites in the Tablas Creek lineup. Possessing lots of citrus and stone fruits, it’s clean and crisp on the palate and avoids being overly tart and lean. Balanced, medium-bodied and with a classy, dry finish, drink it over the coming 2-3 years. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2017.

The **2014 Marsanne** should easily be outstanding. Offering lots of buttered citrus, lemon curd, almond and subtle minerality, it’s medium to full-bodied, beautifully textured and has the Marsanne bitterness that comes through on the finish and makes this variety so flexible with food. It will have a decade or more of longevity. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2025.

Still not yet bottled, the **2014 Picpoul** has lots of ripe lemon and citrus notes in a surprisingly rich, textured yet classy style. It’s another terrific white that will be food friendly. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2016.

Another terrific white from barrel, the **2014 Roussanne** offers up lots of wax, citrus oil, orange blossom and floral notes in its medium-bodied, richly textured, balanced personality. It has solid mid-palate heft and plenty of texture, but like all of this estate’s 2014 whites, it has excellent acidity and freshness. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2020.

The star of the whites was the **2014 Esprit Blanc de Tablas**. The most complete and rich, it reveals a medium-gold color to go with impressive notes of white currants, licorice, lemon curd and white flower characteristics on the nose. Medium to full-bodied, nicely concentrated and with vibrant acidity, it still has another year in foudre before being released, but it should drink beautifully then and keep for a decade or more. Anticipated maturity: 2016-2024.

A delicious and highly drinkable blend of 45% Syrah, 29% Grenache, 22% Mourvèdre and a splash of Cunoise, the **2013 Patelin de Tablas** is the estate entry-level blend that incorporates grapes from non-estate vineyards. It’s a rock-solid value that offers lots of juicy berry fruits, pepper, spice and underbrush to go with a medium to light-bodied, balanced and quaffable feel on the palate. It’s best drunk in its youth. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2018.

A year in, year out excellent value, the **2013 Côtes de Tablas** (55% Grenache, 30% Syrah, 10% Cunoise and 5% Mourvèdre, raised mostly in foudre) offers pretty, juicy and lively aromas and flavors of crunchy black cherries, blackberries, peppery herbs, and underbrush. Medium-bodied, balanced and easy drinking, it still has the depth and class to evolve for a 7-8 years (I know as we had just finished an ‘05 retrospective). Anticipated maturity: 2015-2023.

Completely destemmed and raised in larger foudre, the **2013 Mourvèdre** offers classic and textbook Mourvedre notes of blueberries, underbrush, savory herbs and violets. Drink this medium-bodied, lively, fresh and nicely balanced 2013 anytime over the coming 5-8 years. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2023.

One of the standouts in the single variety blends was the **2013 Syrah** which saw 19 months in 2-year-old foudre. It’s a beautiful and classic Syrah that has an inky purple color, lots of black fruits, peppery herbs and smoked earth aromas and flavors plus medium to full-bodied

richness on the palate. Showing the standard freshness and purity of the estate, it will impress for upward of a decade. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2025.

Still not bottled, the **2013 Esprit de Tablas** (40% Mourvèdre, 28% Syrah, 22% Grenache and 10% Counoise) reveals a deep ruby color to go with lots of kirsch, black cherries, rose petal and underbrush. Full-bodied, nicely concentrated, with solid mid-palate depth and a great texture, it should drink nicely on release and keep for a decade or more. Anticipated maturity: 2016-2026.

The **2013 Panoplie** showed similar to last year, with fabulous richness and depth in its blackcurrant, pepper, underbrush and floral bouquet. Full-bodied, rich, textured and concentrated, with sweet tannin, it's filled in slightly since I tasted it and I suspect it will continue fleshing out over the coming 2-4 years. It will have 15 years or more of longevity. Anticipated maturity: 2018-2028.

Continuing to be a great value, the **2014 Patelin de Tablas** is made with some purchased fruit and is a great example of the style of the estate. Giving up juicy, medium-bodied notes of red and black raspberries, violets and assorted peppery herb characteristics, this medium-bodied, supple and fruity effort has tons of class. It's a perfect mid-week drinker to buy by the case. Anticipated maturity: 2016-2018.

Incorporating more Syrah in 2014 (Syrah excelled in the vintage), the **2014 Côtes de Tablas** is a stunner that over delivers. Juicy, fruit-loaded and medium to full-bodied, with tons of ripe raspberry, violets, spice and floral notes, this rocking Rhône blend has beautiful purity and more grip and structure than its humble price point would have you believe. It will drink well for 7-8 years. Anticipated maturity: 2016-2024.

The best example of this cuvée I've tasted in a while, the **2014 Esprit de Tablas** is a full-bodied, sexy and voluptuous beauty that offers loads of darker, base notes in its licorice, roasted herbs, licorice and assorted black raspberry and blackberry aromas and flavors. It's another sensational 2014 barrel sample. Anticipated maturity: 2017-2027.

A step up over the '12 and '13, the Mourvedre-dominated **2014 Panoplie** will compete with the top wines in this terrific vintage. Smoked herbs, scorched earth, crushed flowers and distinct minerality give way to a fabulous core of ripe Mourvedre dominated black and blue fruits. Full-bodied, concentrated, rich and seriously structured, it will need 4-5 years of cellaring to start to really strut, but given its wealth of fruit, it might surprise in its youth as well. Anticipated maturity: 2020-2030."

