

Tablas Creek	2010	Roussanne	White	89
Tablas Creek	2010	Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc	White	91
Tablas Creek	2010	Chardonnay Antithesis	White	89
Tablas Creek	2011	Vermentino	White	88
Tablas Creek	2011	Patelin de Tablas Blanc	White	87
Tablas Creek	2011	Marsanne	White	89
Tablas Creek	2011	Côtes de Tablas Blanc	White	89
Tablas Creek	2011	Picpoul Blanc	White	88
Tablas Creek	2011	Grenache Blanc	White	(90-92)
Tablas Creek	2009	Esprit de Beaucastel	Red	94
Tablas Creek	2009	Esprit de Beaucastel Panoplie	Red	95
Tablas Creek	2010	Patelin de Tablas	Red	90
Tablas Creek	2010	Counoise	Red	89

Tablas Creek	2010	Grenache	Red	92
Tablas Creek	2010	Mourvèdre	Red	92
Tablas Creek	2010	Syrah	Red	91
Tablas Creek	2010	Côtes de Tablas	Red	90
Tablas Creek	2010	Tannat	Red	90
Tablas Creek	2011	Patelin de Tablas	Red	89
Tablas Creek	2010	En Gobelet	Red	(88-90)
Tablas Creek	2010	Esprit de Beaucastel	Red	(93-95)
Tablas Creek	2010	Esprit de Beaucastel Panoplie	Red	(94-96)
Tablas Creek	2011	Côtes de Tablas	Red	(89-92)
Tablas Creek	2011	Mourvèdre	Red	(89-91)
Tablas Creek	2010	Vin de Paille Quintessence	Sweet White	94
Tablas Creek	2010	Vin de Paille Sacrerouge	Sweet Red	93

“As always, my tasting at Tablas Creek was a bit of a marathon session covering several dozen wines, but that is just a testament to a world-class winery that excels at so many things. This year I tasted with proprietor Jason Haas, winemaker Ryan Hebert and assistant winemaker Chelsea Magnusson. Haas describes 2011 as a difficult year. A devastating spring frost reduced yields by as much as 40% in some places. Vintage 2010 was characterized by a long growing season, but without the huge heat spikes that were seen elsewhere. It was also much more plentiful, which gave the winery the quality and ability to bottle its four main red Rhone varieties separately.

The **2010 Roussanne** wraps around the palate with layers of honey, almonds, flowers, mint and honeysuckle. Layers of fruit continue to build into the succulent, juicy finish. The 2010 is rich, but not at all heavy. This is a gorgeous showing from Tablas Creek. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2015. The **2010 Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc** is bright, focused and beautifully articulated. The higher percentage of Grenache Blanc in this vintage gives the wine lovely lift, energy and focus. White flowers, pears and crushed rocks are layered into the finish. This is a great showing from Tablas Creek’s flagship white. In 2010, the blend is 60% Roussanne, 35% Grenache Blanc and 5% Picpoul Blanc. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016. The **2010 Chardonnay Antithesis** is racy, vibrant and beautifully delineated. The brighter, focused side of Chardonnay comes through in the glass. Lemon zest, white peaches, spice and a hint of tropical fruit are layered into the finish. The Antithesis was aged in neutral oak. It, too, is absolutely delicious. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016.

An unusual wine for Paso Robles, **2011 Vermentino** is full of brisk, saline notes. Hints of white-fleshed fruit emerge over time, but this remains a wonderfully crisp, energetic wine to drink in its youth. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2014. Readers in search of a delicious, value-priced white should check out the **2011 Patelin de Tablas Blanc**. Peaches, flowers and mint all emerge effortlessly from this crisp, refreshing white. Grenache Blanc gives the wine much of its tension. The blend is 45% Grenache Blanc, 34% Viognier, 18% Roussanne and 3% Marsanne, mostly purchased fruit but grown on Tablas cuttings. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2014. Tablas Creek’s **2011 Marsanne** is quite a bit fresher and more energetic than the 2010, some of which may be attributable to the recent bottling, just two weeks before this tasting. Still, I find plenty to admire in the wine’s overall energy and bright, floral-infused fruit. Today, the 2011 comes across as just slightly more polished

than the 2010. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016. The **2011 Côtes de Tablas Blanc** presents an intriguing combination from the richness of the Viognier and Marsanne, plus the more mineral notes of Grenache Blanc and Roussanne. This is pure balance and harmony. The 2011 is 27% Viognier, 26% Grenache Blanc, 25% Marsanne and 22% Roussanne. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2015. Another of the more eccentric whites here, **2011 Picpoul Blanc** comes across as rich and deep. Earthiness, white flowers and nectarines flesh out onto a finish that is at once big and creamy. This is an unusually big Picpoul with shades of tropical-leaning fruit that linger on the finish. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2015. The **2011 Grenache Blanc** is fabulous. It possesses an additional dimension of richness from the year that balances some of the more mineral tendencies of the Grenache Blanc, but the overall impression is one of pure balance and class. This is a great showing from Tablas Creek. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016.

I am thrilled to see the **2009 Esprit de Beaucastel** burst from the glass with an exciting melange of dark red cherries, flowers, sweet herbs, mint and spices. Exotic spiced notes linger on the finish. The 2009 boasts serious intensity, richness and depth, but it remains quite tannic and in need of further bottle age. The vintage saw both frost and drought, two conditions that are a little unusual in the same year. Now that it is in bottle, the 2009 meets all of the expectations I had when I tasted it from barrel last year. The blend is 40% Mourvèdre, 28% Syrah, 27% Grenache and 5% Counoise. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2024. The **2009 Esprit de Beaucastel Panoplie** is more complex than the straight Esprit, and is even more thrilling from bottle than it was from barrel. Today, the Panoplie comes across as very young. Dark cherries, flowers, mint, licorice and tobacco are some of the many notes that take shape in the glass, but ultimately the 2009 is still a very primary wine built on fruit. The 2009 boasts so much pure density that the tannins appear to be nearly buried, but they are there. This is a decidedly huge, dramatic wine from Tablas Creek. The blend is 65% Mourvèdre, 26% Grenache and 9% Syrah. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2024. The **2010 Patelin de Tablas** is a gorgeous, entry-level red from Tablas Creek. Dark red cherries, anise, spices and sweet herbs are some of the many notes that take shape in the glass. The 2010 boasts impressive density, length and sheer balance, especially for its price range. The blend is 39% Syrah, 36% Grenache, 22% Mourvèdre and 3% Counoise. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016. A totally classy wine, the **2010 Counoise** offers up

mint, sweet herbs and dried flowers in an intensely perfumed, medium-bodied style that is quite appealing. The 2010 turns feminine and gracious as it sits in the glass, with ethereal notes that inform the finish. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2015. The **2010 Grenache** is gorgeous. A gentle hint of spice box adds complexity to this beautifully delineated, varietally expressive Grenache. Layers of flavor build to a rich finish supported by vibrant acidity. The tannins are evident, yet very nicely balanced. This is yet another terrific, compelling wine from Tablas Creek. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2018. I find stunning beauty and purity in Tablas Creek's **2010 Mourvèdre**. Rich yet weightless, it offers up plum, camphor, tobacco, spices and mint, all to match an impossibly refined, gracious personality. The 2010 is rich yet not at all heavy. It is a wine of incomparable textural finesse. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2022. Dark plums, spices, black olives and violets all come to life in **2010 Syrah**. The aromas and flavors literally jump out of the glass. There is a centeredness and focus in the fruit that is immensely appealing. The 2010 Syrah was fermented in oak uprights and aged in foudre, with just a dollop of new oak. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2025. The **2010 Côtes de Tablas** is a bit more accessible than some of the single-variety wines because of its medium-bodied structure. Dark red cherries, flowers and tobacco float through to the medium-bodied, refined finish, where a dash of Cunoise adds lift. The 2010 is 46% Grenache, 39% Syrah, 10% Mourvèdre and 5% Cunoise. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2020. The **2010 Tannat** is intriguing. There is lovely intensity and plenty of structure, but the wine also has more than enough fruit to stand up to the firm tannins. A hint of spice from the new oak adds complexity to a serious core of dark red fruit. This is very nicely done. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016. The **2011 Patelin de Tablas** is slightly richer than the 2011 owing to the greater presence of Syrah. Dark red cherries, flowers and tobacco wrap around the deep, expressive finish. Today, the 2011 shows some of the effects of its recent bottling, but it should come together nicely over the next few months. The 2011 is 52% Syrah, 29% Grenache, 18% Mourvèdre and 1% Cunoise. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016.

The **2010 En Gobelet** is a big wine, but all the elements meld together gracefully, probably because of the co-fermentation Tablas Creek employs for this field blend of 37% Grenache, 28% Mourvèdre, 13% Syrah, 12% Cunoise and 10% Tannat, all from head-trained, dry-farmed vines. Today, it is the purity of the fruit and the silkiness of the tannin that stands out most, but with another year or so the aromatics should become more expressive and nuanced. Dark red berries, licorice, herbs and tobacco are layered into the dense, energetic finish. This is a promising En Gobelet. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2020. In this vintage, the **2010 Esprit de Beaucastel** is decidedly huge. An exciting array of dark red fruit, black cherries, incense and tar come together beautifully. At first large-scaled and sweeping in personality, the wine finds more refined registers on the finish, where floral notes add a measure of lift and finesse. Today, the 2010 is a baby, though. The blend is 45% Mourvèdre, 30% Grenache, 21% Syrah and 4% Cunoise. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2025. The **2010 Esprit de Beaucastel Panoplie** explodes from the glass with masses of black fruit, tar, smoke and game. It boasts stunning depth, richness and sheer power. This dazzling, muscular red is built for the cellar. No doubt about it. In 2010, the blend is 60% Mourvèdre, 30% Grenache and 10% Syrah. Anticipated maturity: 2015-2025. The low yields of the vintage inform the **2011 Côtes de Tablas**, which is especially rich. It could very well end up being a serious overachiever. We will see for sure once the wine is in bottle. Dark red fruit, herbs and tobacco flesh out on the highly attractive finish. The

2011 is 49% Grenache, 28% Syrah, 15% Mourvèdre and 8% Cunoise. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2017. The **2011 Mourvèdre** is much more obvious than the 2010. Smoke, earthiness, game, wild herbs, tobacco and black fruit are some of the many notes that take shape in the glass in this big, powerful wine. This is another rich, weighty offering from Tablas Creek in 2011. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2020.

A compelling sweet wine, the **2010 Vin de Paille Quintessence** (Roussanne) bursts from the glass with the essence of mango, passion fruit, dried flowers and honey, all in a voluptuous, creamy style that is highly appealing. The Roussanne was air-dried prior to being pressed, resulting in a sweet wine with 199 grams of residual sugar. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2020. The **2010 Vin de Paille Sacrerouge** is drop-dead gorgeous. Here it is air-dried Mourvèdre that gives up an alluring concoction of black cherries, licorice, spices, mint, crushed flowers and licorice. This is another head-spinning, totally beautiful dessert wine from Tablas Creek. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2015.”

