



Stephen Tanzer's

International Wine Cellar

Tablas Creek Vineyard

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By [Stephen Tanzer](#)

[2003 Tablas Creek Vineyard Tablas Blanc Paso Robles](#)

87

(\$20; 45% viognier, 32% marsanne, 16% grenache blanc and 7% roussanne) Deep peach skin color. Aromas of peach pit, lanolin, minerals and nut skin. Glyceral-rich but quite dry, with a bit of alcoholic warmth. Subtle peach pit flavor displays the wine's marsanne side more than its viognier component. Very much in the style of an old-school Northern Rhone white. Still, I'd like to have seen a bit more nerve and brightness.

[2003 Tablas Creek Vineyard Roussanne](#)

91

(\$27) Pale copper-gold color. Leesy, smoky aromas of peach, pear, licorice, mint and honeysuckle; pure and aromatic. Then juicy, floral and quite pure, with a note of lemon gelato contributing to the wine's delicacy and high pitch. Pure, firmly built, sophisticated roussanne, finishing with impressive persistence.

[2003 Tablas Creek Vineyard Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc](#)

90(+?)

(\$35; 68% roussanne, 27% grenache blanc and 5% viognier) Pale copper-gold color. Extremely reticent, tight nose showed only oak at the outset but opened to reveal ginger, cress, white pepper and licorice. Round, concentrated and pure in the middle palate, with subtle flavors of lemon, spices, minerals and white pepper. More youthfully backward than the varietal roussanne bottling, but finishes with excellent grip, precision and length.

[2002 Tablas Creek Vineyard Tablas Rouge Paso Robles](#)

89

(\$20) Medium red. Brooding aromas of black raspberry, pepper, spices and menthol. Supple, spicy and lively, with nuanced flavors of bitter cherry, spices and tobacco. Fresh enough, but without quite the verve of this producer's best efforts. Finishes with substantial dusty, peppery tannins and very good length.

[2002 Tablas Creek Vineyard Esprit de Beaucastel Paso Robles](#)

90

(\$40; a blend of 57% mourvedre, 27% syrah, 10% grenache and 6% counoise) Ruby-red. Aromas of blackberry, maraschino cherry and licorice. Superripe, sweet and creamy, with densely packed black fruit and licorice flavors lifted by a floral nuance. Not yet particularly complex but juicy, pliant and seductively sweet. Tannins are buried in fruit.