

# WINE ENTHUSIAST MAGAZINE

**90** **Tablas Creek Vineyard 2004 Esprit de Beaucastel (Paso Robles); \$45.** The winery continues to make progress with this ambitious wine, a Rhône blend of Mourvèdre, Syrah, Grenache, and Counoise. The challenge has always been to move beyond simple ripeness, which is easy to achieve, into true complexity. The '04 moves the ball forward, offering Provençal herb nuances to the cherries and cola.

**87** **Tablas Creek Vineyard 2004 Côtes de Tablas (Paso Robles); \$20.** A junior version of the winery's Esprit bottling, although this one's based on Grenache and is much richer and almost sweeter in cherry liqueur. It's a soft, simple wine, but beguiling. You might almost call it seductive.

**90** **Tablas Creek Vineyard 2005 Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc (Paso Robles); \$35.** One of the more distinctive whites in California, this blend of Roussanne, Grenache Blanc and Picpoul Blanc is produced by a leading Rhone family from France. It will appeal to Chard lovers for its rich, oaky creaminess, but it offers a completely different flavor profile of nectarines, apricots and wildflowers.

**87** **Tablas Creek Vineyard 2004 Côtes de Tablas Blanc (Paso Robles); \$20.** This Roussanne, Marsanne, and Grenache Blanc blend is dry and crisp in acidity, with flavors of baked papayas, guavas and nectarines, offset by high acidity. It doesn't possess the complexity of Esprit, but it's a nice, complex wine.

Steve Heimoff, Wine Enthusiast, April 2007