

### 94 | **Tablas Creek**

**2016 Adelaida District Esprit de Tablas** Robert Haas, founder of the wine-importing firm Vineyard Brands, established Tablas Creek in partnership with the Perrin family of Châteauneuf-du-Pape in 1989. They planted a vineyard in western Paso Robles with cuttings from Château de Beaucastel, the Perrin's Châteauneuf property. Those vines, farmed organically by Robert's son, Jason, and winegrower Neil Collins, have produced some of California's most elegant and evocative Rhône-variety wines, like this blend of mourvedre (46 percent), syrah, grenache and counoise. It has a rooty spice, like turmeric and ginger, and a gentle clarity to its pomegranate-bright fruit. Patrick J. Comiskey, an editor at *W&S* and the author of *American Rhône*, described the flavors as substantial but lifted: "It's airy, in a positive sense." *Reviewed by Joshua Greene.*

