

Tablas Creek	2009	Côtes de Tablas Blanc	White	88
Tablas Creek	2009	Grenache Blanc	White	89
Tablas Creek	2009	Bergeron	White	89
Tablas Creek	2009	Roussanne	White	89
Tablas Creek	2009	Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc	White	91
Tablas Creek	2009	Chardonnay Antithesis	White	92
Tablas Creek	2010	Vermentino	White	90
Tablas Creek	2010	Patelin de Tablas Blanc	White	89
Tablas Creek	2010	Côtes de Tablas Blanc	White	90
Tablas Creek	2010	Grenache Blanc	White	89
Tablas Creek	2010	Picpoul Blanc	White	88
Tablas Creek	2010	Marsanne	White	(88-90)
Tablas Creek	2010	Roussanne	White	(89-91)
Tablas Creek	2010	Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc	White	(90-92)
Tablas Creek	2010	Chardonnay Antithesis	White	(90-92)

Tablas Creek	2008	Grenache	Red	92
Tablas Creek	2008	Syrah	Red	93
Tablas Creek	2008	Mourvèdre	Red	93
Tablas Creek	2008	Esprit de Beaucastel	Red	94
Tablas Creek	2008	Esprit de Beaucastel Panoplie	Red	96
Tablas Creek	2008	Tannat	Red	91
Tablas Creek	2009	Côtes de Tablas	Red	88
Tablas Creek	2009	Grenache	Red	90+
Tablas Creek	2009	En Gobelet	Red	92
Tablas Creek	2009	Esprit de Beaucastel	Red	(91-94)
Tablas Creek	2009	Esprit de Beaucastel Panoplie	Red	(91-94)
Tablas Creek	2009	Tannat	Red	(90-93)
Tablas Creek	2010	Patelin de Tablas	Red	(87-89)

“Tablas Creek was founded as a partnership between Château de Beaucastel in Châteauneuf-du-Pape and Robert Haas, owner of Beaucastel’s US importer, Vineyard Brands. Tablas Creek is one of the pioneers for Rhône varieties in Paso Robles, not just for the quality of the wines, but just as importantly for creating a nursery of clones from Beaucastel cuttings that are now used widely throughout the region. The estate currently has about 105 acres under vine. Tablas Creek works with indigenous yeasts and favors large, neutral oak barrels and casks for aging.

Vintage 2009 was the third in a series of drought years for the estate, which along with a severe spring frost reduced yields dramatically to less than 1.85 tons per acre. The wines, though, are striking. Vintage 2010 could not have been more different. There was no spring frost. Instead the estate received a whopping 44 inches of rain. A cold summer led to a late harvest that started during the second half of October and lasted until early November. Readers will find a broad range of compelling bottles across all price ranges. As an aside, Tablas Creek is one of the highest-quality estates in California that has the facilities and capacity to receive visitors.

The **2009 Côtes de Tablas Blanc** (45% Viognier, 28% Roussanne, 20% Marsanne, 7% Grenache Blanc), flows with attractive scents of apricots, mint and light floral honey. The creaminess of the fruit flows through nicely to the textured finish. This steel-aged white is an excellent introduction to the house style. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016. The **2009 Grenache Blanc** is very pretty. It shows beautiful delineation in its aromas and flavors, with gorgeous nuance and clarity from start to finish. Sweet floral notes, light honey and hints of tangerine linger on the close. The Grenache Blanc was aged in a combination of steel and neutral oak. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016. The **2009 Bergeron** (Roussanne) is a lovely wine graced with plenty of up-front fleshiness in its juicy peaches and apricots. Honeyed, floral notes add complexity on the oily, textured finish. The Bergeron emerges from one of the cooler spots on the property and is made in a style that favors freshness over richness. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016. The **2009 Roussanne** flows across the palate with layers of tangerine, honey and white flowers. Rich, deep and expansive all the way through to the creamy, generous finish, the Roussanne is made in a distinctly riper style with more new oak influence than the Bergeron. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016. The flagship **2009 Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc** is 62% Roussanne, 26% Grenache Blanc and 12% Picpoul Blanc. It reveals lovely delineation, freshness and verve. Scents of white peaches, flowers, minerals come together beautifully on the layered finish. The 2009 Esprit has lovely vibrancy for the vintage, mostly

owing to the inclusion of 12% Picpoul, which adds much needed acidity. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016. The **2009 Chardonnay Antithesis** is another stunningly beautiful wine. It reveals tons of tropical fruit in a rich, vivid fabric. Neutral French oak adds volume without leaving any traces in the aromatic or flavor profile. The fleshiness of the fruit wraps around the finish nicely. This is a Chardonnay with distinctly Rhône accents. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016. The **2010 Vermentino** is a gorgeous, crisp white laced with considerable aromatic complexity and sheer personality. It comes across as a bit riper and more generous than most Italian versions. White peaches, flowers and mint flow gracefully to the rich, textured finish. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016. The **2010 Patelin de Tablas Blanc** (50% Grenache Blanc, 33% Viognier, 10% Roussanne, 7% Marsanne) shows the richness of Grenache Blanc in its white peaches, flowers and jasmine. It is a beautifully delineated white, as well as a terrific value. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2015. The just-bottled **2010 Côtes de Tablas Blanc** is quite a bit fresher and more nuanced than the 2009. Bright, citrus white fruit, flowers and minerals come together beautifully in this polished, vibrant white. In 2010 the blend is 54% Viognier, 30% Grenache Blanc, 8% Marsanne and 8% Roussanne. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2017. The **2010 Grenache Blanc** is full of varietal character in this vintage. Bright floral notes wrap around the clean, mineral-laced finish. The 2010 is strikingly different from the honeyed, expansive 2009. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2015. The **2010 Picpoul Blanc** is another bright, piercing wine. Lime peel, citrus and flowers are some of the nuances that linger on the bracing finish. This crisp, refreshing white is ideally suited to summertime drinking. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2015. The **2010 Marsanne** (from tank) flows with gorgeous yellow stone fruits supported by vibrant minerality. It shows excellent depth for the year along with a long, persistent finish. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016. The **2010 Roussanne** (from puncheon) is an impressive white layered with varietal fruit, tangerine blossoms and light floral honey. The coolness of the vintage tempers some of Roussanne’s more extroverted tendencies in this gorgeous, highly expressive white. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016. The **2010 Esprit de Beaucastel Blanc** (from barrel) is a clean, vibrant Esprit layered with white stone fruits, flowers and minerals. There is plenty of richness in the glass in this understated, polished Esprit. In 2010 the blend is 60% Roussanne, 35% Grenache Blanc and 5% Picpoul Blanc. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016. The **2010 Chardonnay Antitheses** emerges from the glass with expressive tropical fruit and spices. It’s interesting to note that the Chardonnay is so strong here that varietal typicity trumps vintage. The Antithesis impresses for its rich, textured fruit and inviting finish. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2016.

The **2008 Grenache** is an exuberant wine laced with sweet, candied red cherries, spices, mint and dried flowers. At first quite sweet and ripe, the wine finds its balance nicely in the glass. All of the elements come together beautifully on the finish. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2018. The **2008 Syrah** bursts onto the palate with dark cherries, plums, spices and leather. This is a virile, masculine wine with considerable tannic structure that should age quite nicely. Tobacco, flowers, licorice and sweet spices add an element of freshness on the finish. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2023. The **2008 Mourvèdre** comes across as quite subtle. Sweet dark plums, spices, tobacco, leather and licorice take shape in the glass. This shows the more feminine, understated side of the grape. Floral, minty notes add complexity on the round, caressing finish. This is a pretty, sensual wine from Tablas Creek. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2023. The **2008 Esprit de Beaucastel** flows with sweet dark cherries, flowers, tobacco and spices. It is a beautiful, classically built wine graced with striking inner perfume, lovely mid-palate juiciness and a round, utterly harmonious finish. Well-integrated, silky tannins linger on the close. This is a fabulous wine from Tablas Creek. My sense is that the wine should be tasted upon release and then again only after a number of years in bottle. In 2008 the blend is 38% Mourvèdre, 30% Grenache, 26% Syrah and 6% Counoise. Anticipated maturity: 2018-2028. The **2008 Esprit de Beaucastel 'Panoplie'** flows with the essence of dark plums, black cherries, licorice and leather. It is bigger, richer and darker than the straight Esprit, with more inner palate sweetness and sheer power. Tar, spices, iron, crushed rocks and a host of other dark aromas and flavors give the Panoplie much of its distinctive brooding, inward personality. In 2008 the Panoplie is 54% Mourvèdre, 29% Grenache and 17% Syrah. This is a fabulous effort from Tablas Creek. Anticipated maturity: 2018-2028. The **2008 Tannat** is a huge, brooding wine loaded with black fruit and more exotic notes of smoke, tar and incense. This is a decidedly extroverted, idiosyncratic wine, and might not please all palates, but the Tannat tannins are nicely balanced and there is plenty of personality in the glass. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2023.

The **2009 Côtes de Tablas** is soft, silky and beautifully perfumed. Sweet red fruit, flowers and spices flow from this graceful, supple wine. This is an excellent choice for near-term drinking. In 2009 the blend is 43% Grenache, 24% Syrah, 18% Counoise and 15% Mourvedre. Anticipated maturity: 2011-2014. The **2009 Grenache** is a pretty yet firm red that needs time to recover from its recent bottling. Today it comes across as somewhat shut down, but with time in the glass hints of ripe red fruits and flowers begin to emerge. The finish retains attractive elements of vibrancy and polish. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2019. The **2009 En Gobelet** emerges from a dry-farmed parcel of head pruned vines. It is a hugely promising, beautifully balanced wine. Firm yet well-integrated tannins support dark red fruit, leather and spices. Today the wine is understandably quite primary and intense, but it boasts dazzling textural elegance and all of the ingredients to develop into a gorgeous bottle in a few years' time. There is no shortage of personality and character here. In 2009 the blend is 56% Mourvèdre, 23% Tannat and 21% Grenache. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2024. The **2009 Esprit de Beaucastel**, tasted from foudre, is very, very young. The wine literally explodes on the palate with a rush of dark fruit enshrouded within a wall of muscular tannin. The 2009 is a dark inward Esprit that will require patience, but when the wine opens up it will be a jewel. Actually, it already is. In 2009 the blend is 40% Mourvèdre, 28% Syrah, 27% Grenache and 5% Counoise. Anticipated maturity: 2014-2024. The **2009 Esprit de Beaucastel 'Panoplie'** is strikingly beautiful. Layers of dark fruit caress the palate, followed by a rich tapestry of plums, wild herbs, licorice, sage and rosemary. The Panoplie possesses gorgeous inner perfume and a mid-palate pliancy that follows through to the massive, building finish. A final blast of black fruit, tar, smoke, licorice and tannin leaves a lasting impression. I might have a slight preference for the 2008, but that is splitting hairs at this level. In 2009 the blend is 65% Mourvèdre,

26% Grenache and 9% Syrah. Anticipated maturity: 2019-2029. The **2009 Tannat** is absolutely fabulous. The vintage has softened the tannins to an unusual degree. This isn't the most varietally typical Tannat (readers should look to the 2008 for that) but the wine flows effortlessly with expressive blackberries, blueberries and spices, with an opulent, full-bodied personality graced with exquisite inner perfume. This is a captivating wine. Anticipated maturity: 2013-2021. The **2010 Patelin de Tablas** is a plump, mouthfilling red loaded with fruit and sheer character. It is one of the finest values in California wine. In 2010 the blend is 39% Syrah, 36% Grenache, 22% Mourvèdre and 3% Counoise. Anticipated maturity: 2012-2015."

