

# TABLAS CREEK VINEYARD

## CÔTES DE TABLAS 2010



### TECHNICAL NOTES

46% Grenache  
39% Syrah  
10% Mourvèdre  
5% Counoise

14.5% Alcohol by Volume  
2640 Cases Produced

### FOOD PAIRINGS

Grilled steaks  
Pastas with meat sauces  
Rich beef stews  
Spicy sausages

The Tablas Creek Vineyard Côtes de Tablas is a blend of four estate-grown Rhône varietals: Grenache, Syrah, Counoise and Mourvèdre. Like most wines of the Southern Rhône, it is a blend of varietals, featuring the fruit and spice of Grenache balanced by the spice and mineral of Syrah, the appealing briary wildness of Counoise, and the structure of Mourvèdre.

The grapes for our Côtes de Tablas were grown on our 120-acre certified organic estate vineyard.

The 2010 vintage saw healthy rainfall after three years of drought. The ample early-season groundwater and a lack of spring frosts produced a good fruit set. A very cool summer delayed ripening by roughly three weeks, with harvest not beginning until mid-September and still less than half complete in mid-October. Warm, sunny weather between mid-October and mid-November allowed the later-ripening varieties to reach full maturity. The long hangtime and cool temperatures combined to produce fruit with intense flavors and dark color at low alcohol levels. Syrah was harvested between September 28th and October 13th, followed by Grenache between October 4th and November 13th, Counoise between October 17th and November 6th, and Mourvèdre between October 4th and November 18th.

All varietals were fermented in a mix of stainless steel and wooden upright fermenters with the use of native yeasts. After pressing, the wines were racked, blended, aged for a year in 1200-gallon French oak foudres, and then bottled in January 2012. The wines underwent only a light filtration before bottling.

The 2010 Côtes de Tablas shows a spicy nose of crushed rock, licorice and black cherry, with sweet spices like nutmeg and cinnamon coming out with air. The mouth is nicely vibrant with flavors of fig and cherry, leather, balsamic and mineral, with chalky Grenache tannins coming out on the lingering, spicy finish. Drink now and for the next decade.

