

TABLAS CREEK VINEYARD

CÔTES DE TABLAS BLANC 2008



The Tablas Creek Vineyard *Côtes de Tablas Blanc* is a blend of four estate-grown white Rhône varietals: Viognier, Roussanne, Marsanne, and Grenache Blanc. The wine, like most wines of the Southern Rhône, is a blend of varietals, featuring the aromatics and fruit of the Viognier, the flavors and clean minerality of the Marsanne and Roussanne, and the crisp acids and rich mouthfeel of the Grenache Blanc. Like our *Côtes de Tablas* red, this wine is designed to be ready to drink young: at its peak from the moment of its release.

As with all our wines, the grapes for our *Côtes de Tablas Blanc* were grown on our 120-acre certified organic estate vineyard. The 2008 vintage was our second consecutive drought year, with yields further reduced by spring frosts. Berries and clusters were small, leading to excellent concentration. Ripening over the summer was gradual and harvest about a week later than normal. Crop sizes were similar to 2007 and about 20% lower than usual. The low yields and gradual ripening resulted in wines with good intensity, lower than normal alcohols and an appealing gentle minerality.

All varietals for the *Côtes de Tablas Blanc* were whole cluster pressed, and fermented in stainless steel to emphasize the clean crisp flavors and preserve the aromatics. Only native yeasts were used. After fermentation, the wines were racked and blended, and bottled in May 2009. The wine underwent only a light cold stabilization before bottling.

The 2008 *Côtes de Tablas Blanc* is a blend in the style of French Cotes du Rhone whites, and features intense aromas of stone fruits and minerals, flavors of apricot and Provençal herbs, rich texture, moderate acidity and a long peachy finish.

TECHNICAL NOTES

42% Viognier
26% Roussanne
21% Marsanne
11% Grenache Blanc

13.5% Alcohol by Volume

3000 Cases Produced

FOOD PAIRINGS

Mussels Marinière
Green salads with avocado and citrus dressing
Scallops
Ceviche
Light fish (halibut, sole) with tropical salsa

