Tablas Creek

Produced from biodynamically farmed and organically certified vines, this wine combines the richness of Roussanne with the freshness and minerality of Grenache Blanc, Picpoul Blanc, and Picardan.

Esprit de Tablas Creek Blanc 2019

California, USA

95 James Suckling

Region and Vineyards

The **Adelaida District of Paso Robles**, where Tablas Creek is located, boasts a Mediterranean climate with limestone-rich soils, making it ideal for Rhône varieties. The estate vineyards are **certified organic and biodynamic**, underscoring the commitment to sustainable viticulture.

The region's diverse microclimate, with warm days and cool nights, allows the grapes to ripen fully while retaining natural acidity. The 2019 growing season began with **ample winter rainfall**, replenishing the soils and delaying bud break. A cool early summer led to gradual ripening, which concentrated flavors and preserved brightness, resulting in a vintage that balances intensity with freshness.

Winemaking

The **Esprit de Tablas Blanc** is a blend of **63% Roussanne, 20% Grenache Blanc, 14% Picpoul Blanc, and 3% Picardan**. Each variety contributes unique characteristics:

- **Roussanne** forms the backbone, offering richness, honeyed notes, and a mineral core.
- **Grenache Blanc** adds lushness, green apple, and bright acidity.
- **Picpoul Blanc** imparts pineapple brightness and saline minerality.
- **Picardan**, though a smaller component, enhances elegance and finesse.

The grapes were fermented in a mix of **oak barrels of various sizes and ages**, emphasizing textural complexity without overwhelming oak influence. Post-blending, the wine was returned to **foudres** for ageing through the subsequent harvest, followed by nine months in bottle prior to release in December 2020. This approach ensures integration and depth.

Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 63% Roussanne, 20% Grenache Blanc, 14% Picpoul Blanc, 3% Picardan

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Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Bright straw with golden hues, reflecting its richness and vibrancy.
- **Aroma**: A creamy bouquet of **wildflower honey**, **baking spices**, and **citrus pith**, interwoven with briny mineral undertones.
- **Palate**: The wine is textured and dry, showcasing flavors of **quince, pear**, and a custard-like richness. A long finish lingers with notes of **honey**, **vanilla bean**, and **limestone minerality**.

Did You Know?

The vines for this wine were propagated from **budwood cuttings from Château de Beaucastel**, Tablas Creek's Rhône Valley partner. This lineage ensures authenticity in varietal expression and adherence to traditional Rhône winemaking.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Homard à l'Américaine (Lobster with tomato, brandy, and cream)**: The wine's richness complements the dish's indulgent flavors, while its acidity cuts through the creaminess.
- **Ratatouille Provençale**: The herbaceous and roasted vegetable notes pair beautifully with the wine's texture and minerality.
- **Filet de saumon rôti (Roasted salmon)**: The wine's bright acidity balances the rich, oily texture of the fish.
- **Aïoli Provençal (Garlic and olive oil dip with vegetables)**: The wine's citrusy freshness enhances the bold flavors of this classic Mediterranean dish.

James Suckling (JS) : 95 Points (2019)

Aromas of peach, thyme and lilies. Medium-bodied with refreshing tannins. Bright acidity, but overall pleasant, mellow presence. Fresh stone fruit and jasmine on the palate. Well balanced with a soft finish. 63% roussanne, 20% grenache blanc, 14% picpoul blanc, 3% picardan.

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 94 Points (2019)

This blend of 63% Roussanne, 20% Grenache Blanc, 14% Picpoul Blanc and 3% Picardan showcases what the winery does best. Aromas of blanched almond, candied honeydew and coconut lead into a palate that s moothly integrates chamomile, dried lemon and rich hazelnut flavors. Editors' Choice* (MK) (11/2021)*

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 94 Points (2019)

Vivid yellow. Assertively perfumed orange zest, nectarine and pineapple aromas, along with building floral and smoky mineral flourishes. Shows fine definition and tension on the palate, offering intense citrus and pit fruit flavors braced by a core of juicy acidity. Lingers with superb tenacity on the finish, which strongly echoes the mineral and floral notes. (JR) (7/2022)

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