

Paso Present and Future

BRECON ESTATE IS A STAR FROM THE ADELAIDA DISTRICT OF PASO ROBLES

Winemaker Damian Grindley is

creating beauty in the form of old-vine Cabernet Sauvignon from the outcropped limestone hillsides of Paso Robles' Adelaida District. Of Australian-Welsh heritage, Grindley also grows Cab Franc, Petit Verdot, Malbec from Cahors, and Tannat on his estate, which is mostly dry farmed. But the winery's identity is not limited to that: "For us, we don't want to figure out, 'Are we a Bordeaux house, [a producer of] Rhône blends, or [an] Old World winery?' We want to be known as a Paso winery and, in 30–40 years, [known] for what Paso Robles will come to be known [for], whether it's Syrah or Cab or even Albariño," he says.

We discovered Brecon Estate several years ago and want to keep the momentum going with these reviews, as this rising star surely will continue to add to the region's greatness in its future.

Brecon Estate 2019 Malbec, Adelaida District, Paso Robles (\$67) Malbec is staking a claim for high praise in Paso; this was one of the first—and the best—examples that caught our attention a year ago. The 2019 is its second vintage and a stellar demonstration of how this grape excels in Adelaida's calcareous soils. Clones from both Cahors and Mendoza serve as alchemist's tools for winemaker Damian Grindley, who notes, "[The grape] comes with tiny berries and great promise." His addition of 3% Tannat offers more of that French accent to this fragrant red, whose aromas of cigar leaf and



plum lead to a mouthfeel so dense that it caresses, envelops, and seduces. Sumptuous notes of blueberry are blessed with a bright, ripe character, joined by melted dark chocolate and spiced with cinnamon stick. **97**

Brecon Estate 2019 Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon, Adelaida District, Paso Robles (\$84) Brecon was the third or possibly the fourth Cabernet vineyard planted in the Paso Robles region. With 4% Petit Verdot added in, this is a purple-powered punch of a wine: It's bright, with focused, slick tannins; good acid structure; and a juicy mouthfeel. Plum, violets, and boysenberry engage in a dance of merriment with savory notes of cured meat that impart intriguing elegance. **96**



**Brecon Estate proprietor/
winemaker Damian Grindley.**



Brecon Estate Reserve 2019 Haggis Basher, Adelaida District, Paso Robles (\$82) This classic Northern Rhône blend of 98% Syrah and 2% Viognier rings our bell.

It's big enough to pair with its namesake, but since Scotland's national dish is banned in the U.S., you'll just have to leave that to your imagination. The wine opens up with flavors of grilled meats rubbed with peppercorns and coffee and marinated in molasses and balsamic. On the satiny palate, spices open up a ripe horizon of black plum and black cherry. Progressively deeper and juicier from mid-palate to finish, this is the mark of a true liquid athlete. **96**

