

Issue 168: May/June 2013: Annual Coverage of California's North Coast

## Donkey and Goat Winery

Josh Reynolds

**2011 Five Thirteen Red Wine Blend El Dorado**(\$32) (34% grenache, 32% syrah, 23% mourvedre, 6% counoise and 5% cinsault): Ruby-red. Ripe red fruit aromas are complicated by notes of pungent herbs and licorice. Sappy, spice-accented raspberry and bitter cherry flavors gain sweetness with air and show very good energy and back-end lift. Closes on a medicinal cherry note, with clinging spicecake and cracked pepper notes and chewy tannic grip. This wine will be extremely flexible at the table. **91**

**2011 Mourvedre The Prospector El Dorado**(\$30) (13.1% alcohol): Deep ruby. Spice-accented blackberry, cherry and rooty sassafras scents, with a smoky overtone. Supple and broad on entry, then tighter in the mid-palate, offering gently sweet dark berry flavors and a hint of musky herbs. Picks up a licorice nuance with air and finishes juicy and long, with youthful tannins coming on late. **90**

**2011 Pinot Noir Broken Leg Anderson Valley**(\$45) (12.8% alcohol): Light, bright red. High-pitched red berry and floral aromas are complemented by notes of star anise, allspice and dried rose. Tangy, sharply focused raspberry and cherry flavors pick up weight and sweetness with air, along with a note of cola. Very pure and incisive pinot, with no excess fat. Fine-grained tannins provide shape and grip to an impressively long, floral-accented finish. **92**

**2010 Syrah Perli Vineyards Mendocino Ridge**(\$38) Glass-staining ruby. A wild, intensely perfumed bouquet evokes redcurrant, strawberry, blood orange, olive tapenade and cracked pepper. Tangy and precise, offering zesty, spice-accented red fruit flavors that gain sweetness and depth with air. Lively but concentrated as well, with strong finishing cut and slow-mounting tannins. By all means give this wine an hour or so of air or at least a few more years of rest. **92**

**2011 Wayward Late Harvest Chardonnay El Dorado**(\$25) (harvested at 354 g/l sugar and bottled with 19 g/l of residual sugar; 14.1% alcohol): Hazy yellow-gold. Aromas and flavors of poached pear, melon, beeswax and candied lemon, with an herbal undertone. Sappy and penetrating, with a refreshingly dry edge to its candied orchard and citrus fruit flavors. Comes off less sweet than the numbers would suggest. Closes spicy and long, with a zesty lemon pith quality and a hint of licorice. This wine would do amazingly well with a variety of young or aged cheeses, and especially blues. (JR)

**91**

**2011 Roussanne/Marsanne Coupe D'Or El Dorado**(\$32) Hazy gold. Ripe peach and quince aromas and flavors are complemented by notes of ginger, honey and white pepper, with a lime zest nuance adding lift. A wild, expansive and deeply flavored, unfiltered wine that shows impressive intensity and chewy texture, with serious weight on the finish. Highly intriguing, but it's bound to freak out those used to squeaky clean, polite wines. **90**

**2012 Lily's Cuvee Sparkling Chardonnay Anderson Valley**(\$28) (11.7% alcohol): Hazy, green-tinged yellow. Musky aromas of apple, yellow plum and tangerine, with notes of hazelnut and honey adding complexity. Sappy and broad on entry, then tighter in the mid-palate, offering juicy orchard fruit flavors that show a pleasantly sweet quality. Highly appealing for its primal, intensely fruity character and velvety texture. Finishes with very good energy and cling, leaving a spicy note on the aftertaste. **90**

**2011 Chardonnay Untended Anderson Valley**(\$32) (12.1% alcohol): Vivid gold. Musky, herb- and mineral-accented aromas of dried pear, quince and toasted grain, with a smoky overtone. Fleshy but dry, with very good depth to its orchard fruit and lemon pith flavors. Refreshingly bitter and incisive, with strong finishing grip and zero excess fat. These dry-farmed old Wente clone vines are reportedly 36 years old now. **91**

**2011 Pinot Noir Helluva Anderson Valley**(\$28) Light, bright red. An exotically perfumed bouquet evokes strawberry, Asian spices and potpourri, with a bright mineral top note. Juicy and precise, with very good lift and energy to its tangy red fruit flavors. Very spicy and pure on the finish, which shows only a hint of tannins. No shortage personality here. **92**