

D O N K E Y & G O A T

2012 *Blakeman* Merlot, Anderson Valley

The Anderson Valley vineyard home to our *Untended* Chardonnay includes a small block of Merlot and the challenge of making ultra-cool climate Merlot was too tempting for Jared to resist. 2010 was our first endeavor and while it may confound fans of varietal Merlot those who appreciate our experimentation and enjoy mineral driven reds with verve will be hooked.

Appellation: Anderson Valley

Vineyard: Blakeman

Varietal: Merlot

Clone: Unknown

Age: 36 years

Elevation: 950 feet

Soil: Colluvium loam - decomposed sandstone

Yield: 2 tons/acre

Harvested: October 19, 2012

Pressed: November 4, 2012

Blend: 87% Merlot / 13% Syrah

Fermentation: Wild yeast, neutral oak

Barrel aging: 15 months in neutral FO barrels

Bottled: Unfiltered on Feb 18, 2014

Production: 99 cases

Release date: Fall 2014

Sweet, damp pine forest floor combines with mushrooms and classic Anderson Valley cherry on the nose. The pergola trained vines yield classic merlot components of black cherries, currants and raspberry with hints of prosciutto. The acid and tannin structure of this wine will provide the backbone for 20 plus years of aging. Pairs well with everything from mac&cheese to rack of lamb.