

## Donkey and Goat Winery

Josh Raynolds

**2010 Sluice Box White Wine El Dorado** (\$27) (made from 62% marsanne, 25% skin-fermented grenache blanc and 13% vermentino; bottled without fining or filtration): Light, hazy gold. An exotically perfumed bouquet evokes dried peach, pear skin and honey, with a floral overtone. Juicy and light on its feet, offering vibrant orchard fruit flavors brightened by a touch of lemon zest. Closes dry and chewy, with lingering spiciness and a refreshingly bitter quality. Pretty wild stuff, as I've come to expect--and like--from this idiosyncratic winery. **90**

**2010 Roussanne/Marsanne Coupe D'Or El Dorado** (\$32) (a 50/50 blend): Bright yellow. Perfumed scents of candied pit fruit, pear skin and white flowers, with a spicy topnote and a hint of sweet butter. Smooth and expansive, with very good energy to its fresh nectarine and pear flavors. The floral quality comes back on the finish, which lingers with very good tenacity and a touch of smokiness. **90**

**2010 Roussanne Stone Crusher El Dorado** (\$35) Light, slightly hazy gold. Exotic aromas of dried pit fruits, pear, melon and chamomile, with honey and spice nuances building with air. Pliant, palate-coating pit and orchard fruit flavors are sharpened by a note of bitter lemon pith, which contributes energy. Shows very good depth and a chewy texture, finishing with persistent spiciness and serious cling. **91**

**2010 Chardonnay Brosseau Vineyard Chalone** (\$38) Bright yellow. High-pitched aromas of quince, lemongrass, green apple and chalky minerals, with a sexy floral accent emerging with air. Bright and racy but concentrated too, offering intense, mineral-accented citrus fruit and honeysuckle flavors and a touch of iodine. Lingers nicely on the finish, which features notes of ginger and toasty lees. **91**

**2010 Five Thirteen Red Wine Blend El Dorado** (\$32) (47% grenache, 21% syrah, 16% mourvedre, 10% counoise and 6% cinsault): Vivid red. Smoke- and spice-accented aromas of cherry, redcurrant, violet and licorice, with a hint of cracked pepper emerging with air. Spicy and focused, with a gently chewy texture to the sappy red and dark berry flavors. Shows a refreshingly bitter nuance on the finish, which features sweet red fruits and flowers. This wine is already drinking nicely. **90**

**2010 Mourvedre The Prospector El Dorado** (\$30) Saturated ruby. Textbook mourvedre aromas of cherry, dark berries, licorice and pungent herbs, with notes of smoky, loamy earth and dried rose adding complexity. Deeply pitched cherry and cassis flavors are enlivened by juicy acidity and pick up spiciness and a touch of cured meat with air. On the wild side, not unlike a Bandol, with very good finishing energy and gentle tannic grip. Those who find most New World wines to be too polished and polite should check this one out. **91**

**2009 Syrah Perli Vineyards Mendocino Ridge** (\$38) Deep ruby. Complex, scented nose offers dark berries, star anise, olive, cracked pepper and potpourri. Intense black raspberry and bitter cherry flavors are lifted by a peppery, spicy quality and pick up cured meat and smoke nuances with air. This juicy, precise syrah finishes with very good thrust and lingering spiciness. Shows an elegant quality but also has the depth to suggest that it will reward aging. **91**

**2009 Syrah Fenaughty Vineyard El Dorado** (\$35) Deep ruby. Deeply pitched dark fruit aromas are complicated by Indian spices, olive and roasted herbs. Full and round, with bitter cherry and cassis flavors becoming brighter with air. Firms up on the persistent finish, picking up spicy red fruit character and closing bright and very long. (JR) **92**

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