

Donkey and Goat Winery

Josh Raynolds

2011 Sluice Box White Wine El Dorado(\$27) (made from a blend of 50% marsanne, 34% grenache blanc, 14% vermentino and 2% picoul): Hazy yellow-gold. Pear skin, lemon thyme and chamomile on the intriguingly perfumed nose. Fleshy and expansive, offering gently sweet orchard and pit fruit flavors with a refreshing note of bitter lemon pith. The sappy finish shows good bite and a lingering floral note. **90**

2011 Chardonnay Improbable El Dorado(\$24) Hazy yellow. Musky aromas of pear skin, orange pith and ginger, with a suggestion of chamomile in the background. Sappy, dense and dry, with bright minerality adding energy to bitter melon and orchard fruit flavors. A sweeter note of honey comes up with air and carries through the sappy, persistent, mineral-laced finish. **90**

2011 Chardonnay Untended Anderson Valley(\$32) (12.1% alcohol): Light, hazy yellow. Complex, highly perfumed bouquet of candied citrus fruits, pear skin, anise and smoky minerals. Sappy and precise, offering intense citrus and orchard fruit flavors with suggestions of honeysuckle, tarragon and salted almonds. Closes tangy and very long, with resonating lemon pith and floral nuances and strong, spicy snap. **91**

2011 Grenache Blanc El Dorado(\$27) (12.6% alcohol): Pale gold. Bright aromas and flavors of honeydew, nectarine and orange, complicated by subtle floral and herbal nuances. Juicy and precise on the palate, then firm on the finish, offering good cut to the lingering melon and honeysuckle notes. This wine has the flavor impact to work with full-flavored foods but there's a lightheadedness to it that will suit lighter dishes, even shellfish. **90**

2011 Roussanne Stone Crusher El Dorado(\$30) Hazy, copper-tinged yellow. An exotically perfumed bouquet evokes orange pith, poached pear, honey and candied ginger, plus a hint of hazelnut. Fleshy and smooth, offering lively orchard fruit and honey flavors underscored by juicy acidity. Finishes with very good energy and lift, leaving herb and spice notes behind. This distinctly wild wine will work with rich as well as lighter foods. **91**

2011 Pinot Noir Helluva Anderson Valley(\$28) Light, bright red. High-pitched aromas and flavors of red berries, bitter cherry and potpourri, with a sexy incense nuance building in the glass. Juicy and precise, with excellent finishing cut and lingering spiciness. I suspect that this tightly focused, youthful wine will age well on its balance. **91**

2011 Carignane Mendocino(\$25) Vivid ruby. Vibrant, primary red berry, herbal and floral aromas are complicated by white pepper and anise. The palate shows a refreshingly bitter quality and excellent focus, with tangy redcurrant and bitter cherry flavors dominating. Finishes on a palate-numbing peppery note, with very good clarity and cut. There's a Beaujolais-like character to this wine that's really intriguing. **90**

2011 Grenache Noir El Dorado(\$27) Vivid red. Aromas of red berries, minerals and potpourri, with a sexy Asian spice quality building with air. The palate shows good verve and clarity to the raspberry and bitter cherry flavors. A bright mineral note adds cut to the long, juicy, floral finish. This lively wine reminded me a lot of a top-notch Beaujolais. **90**

2010 Syrah The Recluse Broken Leg Vineyard Anderson Valley(\$40) (includes 3% co-fermented viognier; 12.6% alcohol): Deep ruby. Powerful, spice-accented aromas of candied dark berries, licorice and smoky Indian spices, with a sexy lavender nuance building with air. Juicy, penetrating and sweet, offering intense blackberry and mulberry flavors and a suggestion of candied flowers. Closes on a sweet note, with excellent length, leaving dark fruit and peppery spice notes behind. This wine was made with 35% whole clusters. **92**