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SINGLES ADD SOME FLAVOUR

The advent of boutique wineries in the 1960s and '70s led to many of our most important single-vineyard wines – Lake's Folly, Mount Mary and Moss Wood. These were wines that spoke clearly of the places from which they came, showing their different flavour profiles depending on the vagaries of the seasons. Many believe that for Australia to progress internationally, we need to focus more on wines that speak of the sites from which they come. This partly explains the dramatic increase in the number of single-vineyard wines.

Since 2002, Frankland Estate has produced three single-vineyard rieslings – Isolation Ridge from its home block, as well as Cooladerra and Poison Hill from two nearby Frankland River vineyards. Last year, I found the Cooladerra showing more lime juice and leaner and tauter, with a crisp, dry, slatey finish, while the Poison Hill had more gentle acidity, smooth, fine and yet with minerally, savoury notes, both contrasting with the Isolation Ridge.

Larry Cherubino has taken riesling from three sites across the breadth of the Great Southern: from Kalgan River in the east of the Albany sub-region, Whispering Hill in Mt Barker, and Acacia Ridge in Frankland River. Not only do you have the opportunity to taste the three very different

rieslings from Cherubino under his The Yard label, but there are also single-vineyard wines under the Kalgan River and Capel Vale Whispering Hill labels. I found the 2008 The Yard Kalgan River Riesling fresh and restrained before a long finish. The Acacia vineyard riesling is fine, delicate and softer, yet tight, with intense limey flavours. In the east, Constellation's Tintara has released three individual shirazes from different parts of McLaren Vale.

2008 The Yard Whispering Hill Vineyard Riesling, \$26.95

A stunningly good, youthful riesling from Mt Barker that presents intense lemon-lime flavours before a taut, full finish that lingers dry and long.

2007 Frankland Estate Isolation Ridge Riesling, \$27

The flagship wine from this Frankland River estate: restrained and fine, finishing lean and minerally.

2004 Tintara Blewitt Springs Shiraz, \$80

This has the opulence and power you'd expect from McLaren Vale, but with more finesse, restraint and elegance than usual.

