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reviews

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CELLAR NOTES
KEN GARGETT

Australia is blessed with many talented winemakers but by any standards Larry Cherubino is among the very best. Highly rated during his time with BRL Hardy at its Tintara winery in South Australia, he then moved on to a tough gig – improving the wines at the famous Houghton winery in his home state of Western Australia. For those who take note of vinous bling, during his time at Houghton he picked up an astonishing 80 trophies and more than 300 gold medals.

In 2003 he started a consultancy, working in South Africa, New Zealand (where Craggy Range was impressed with his contributions), Italy and the US. Two years later he returned to WA's south-west, where his family is from, and established his own winemaking operation. His first release was under The Yard label, which are his mid-range, single-vineyard wines (whites from \$25-35, reds \$35).

Now Cherubino has another two labels to his name. Ad Hoc takes in the bargain buy (\$20) regional wines, with some odd names such as Hen & Chicken, Tree Hugger and Middle of Everywhere. Then there's his premium selection (whites \$35, reds \$65-75), bottled under the "LC" monogrammed Cherubino label.

Across all three ranges there is simply not a bad wine, and his rieslings in particular are stunning. Anyone who loves this great grape should try them. Expect Cherubino to become a household name in the wine world.



Ad Hoc Hen & Chicken Chardonnay 2008 (\$20) Pemberton fruit makes for an intensely perfumed wine with spice, orange rind, melon, nuts and a hint of pineapple. [89/100]

The Yard Riversdale Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon 2007 (\$35) From Frankland River, compelling evidence of what a great vintage the West enjoyed in 2007. [92]

The Yard Acacia Vineyard Shiraz 2007 (\$35) Also from Frankland River, oozing dark berries, spice and floral notes. Well structured, almost elegant and finishing with fine tannins. [94]

Cherubino Pemberton Sauvignon Blanc 2008 (\$35) A moderated style with fine acidity and tropical hints. A much more textural sauv blanc than most. [91]