

# Plaudits from the Pundits



## 2005 OLMO'S REWARD

This is a mighty fine wine brimming with warm savoury ripe fruit. Has a thoroughly beautiful mouth feel with length and persistence carrying to a long finish. The tannins are substantial and firm and with further bottle ageing this should come together nicely.

**90 POINTS**

**RAY JORDAN'S WA WINE GUIDE 2009**



## FRANKLAND ESTATE

### 2005 SMITH CULLAM

(A shiraz/cabernet sauvignon blend) Ruby-red. Exotically perfumed nose offers fresh cherry and blackcurrant scents along with Asian spices, incense and vanillin oak spice. Quite suave, with seamless red and dark fruit compote flavors and fully absorbed tannins. Finishes with impressive juicy length and a strong echo of sweet cherry preserves. This is lovely right now. I also had a chance to re-try the 2004 Isolation Ridge Shiraz and the 2003 Olmo's Reward and found both to still be very youthful, with fresh acidity and restrained, balanced personalities.

**93 POINTS.**

**STEPHEN TANZER'S INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR**



## FRANKLAND ESTATE

### 2007 ISOLATION RIDGE RIESLING

Pale straw colour. Fresh pear and apple aromas are underscored by gentle Meyer lemon and orange notes. Fleshy and forward, offering soft citrus and orchard fruit flavors and gentle mineral bite on the back. Less strict than I usually find this wine at this stage. Finishes with very good clarity and cling.

**90 POINTS.**

**STEPHEN TANZER'S INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR**



## 2007 ROCKY GULLY RIESLING

(Pale yellow. Vibrant, sharply focused lemon, lime and quinine aromas reminded me of the Platonic gin and tonic. Clean, sharply focused and pure, offering energetic citrus and green apple flavors and a late note of anise. Very refreshing riesling, with excellent finishing lift and length.

**90 POINTS**

**STEPHEN TANZER'S INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR**



## FRANKLAND ESTATE 2007 ISOLATION RIDGE VINEYARD CHARDONNAY

More fruit-driven than some previous vintages but there is still that grapefruit and cereal mix with some sweeter oak influence. The palate is rich and creamy with a fine tightening acid. Nice oak and balance. Lighter style, though, with good length.

**RAY JORDAN. TOP 100 WINES.  
THE WEST AUSTRALIAN**



## 2007 ROCKY GULLY SHIRAZ VIOGNIER

Vivid ruby color. Youthful blackberry and cracked pepper aromas open up with air to reveal incense and smoky minerals. Primary and a bit tight today, offering tangy dark berry skin flavors and lightly gripping tannins. There's clearly very good material here, but it needs some time to put some flesh on its bones.

**88(+?) POINTS.**

**STEPHEN TANZER'S INTERNATIONAL WINE CELLAR**

# LIMITED RELEASE

## FRANKLAND ESTATE 2008 ISOLATION RIDGE VINEYARD SAUVIGNON BLANC

Sauvignon Blanc is a relatively rare white wine breed in the riesling-centric Isolation Ridge vineyard but we do have some 20 year-old vines we thought deserving of some special winemaking treatment. The result is a limited release of a barrel-fermented sauvignon blanc that received a 'gout de chene' or kiss of oak in old French oak barrels over three weeks.

As with our use of oak in making riesling our aim with this wine was to obtain the mouth feel or textural complexity the oak imparts but not the overt flavours of the wood. Old French oak barrels have virtually no capacity to impart flavour but they still facilitate the development of texture without impinging on the vibrant fruit flavours we achieve from our vineyard.

The 2008 Isolation Ridge Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc has complex orange blossom and stone fruit aromas with a powerful, mouth filling, softly textured palate with rich, abundant flavours leading to a fine minerally finish.

ONLY VERY LIMITED QUANTITIES OF THIS WINE ARE AVAILABLE.



## Visitors Welcome

Readers of Entwined are always welcome at Frankland Estate. Because our cellar door is located in the middle of nowhere (allow 4.5 hours drive from Perth) we like to recommend you ring in advance to let us know of your visit. This will enable us to have someone on hand to assist you sample or purchase our wines and, if you are well behaved, perhaps even show you a few 'special' wines from back vintages or from one of our many 'experiments'.

The winery is located on the western side of the Rocky Gully-Frankland road some 4.5 kms north of Rocky Gully and 14 kms south of Frankland.

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## FRANKLAND ESTATE

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### Frankophiles Wanted

If you know someone who is fond of fine wine and may be interested in receiving our free newsletter, add their name to our mailing list by completing the form below.

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FRANKLAND ESTATE

# ENTWINED

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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## Riesling Rocks!



*"Alone in the vegetable kingdom, the vine makes the true taste of the earth intelligible to man. What a faithful translation it is! The vine senses, then expresses through its fruit the secrets of the soil."*

COLETTE (1873 - 1954)

Nobody at Frankland Estate is as eloquent or articulate as Collette - even when lubricated by a glass or two of our finest - but we share her fascination with the vine's capacity to reveal the secrets of the soil. This is the basis of our shameless infatuation with wines that reflect the environment of the vineyard from which they came.

Nothing distinguishes fine wine from industrial-beverage 'plonk' more readily than its capacity to express the individuality and distinctiveness

of a specific vineyard site. A wine imbued with a sense of place has an appeal that extends well beyond the perceptions of aroma, flavour and texture discernible in its bouquet and palate. To borrow from the legendary Heineken beer commercial of yesteryear, fine wines with a sense of place 'refresh the parts others cannot!'

Such wines are appreciated and often revered because they satisfy the innate human need for meaningful, identity-shaping relationships with nature and place. As French writer

Jean-Baptiste Baronian suggests, "Those who appreciate wine find in every glass a trace of history, of a civilisation and of a gesture that bind together a time and a place."

Wines with a sense of place are difficult to define despite many valiant efforts to describe their elusive qualities. The French use the term *terroir* with the smug satisfaction no single-word translation of this exists in English; our accountant calls it mumbo jumbo as this is the term we use for anything meaningless such as his accounts and US wine writer Matt Kramer coined the term 'somewhereness' indicating he may have listened to too many speeches by a certain George W Bush. As with pornography those struggling to explain *terroir* or sense of place often resort to the excuse 'I can't define it but I know it when I see it!'

Yet no matter what it is called, or how it is defined, the mineral earthy character found in all Frankland Estate wines provides a distinctive and instantly recognisable territorial fingerprint that identifies its provenance.

No grape variety we grow at Frankland Estate transmits this sense of place more distinctly into the bouquet and taste of a wine than riesling. This is why we have such a fanatical passion for it and why we think riesling rocks.

Like all fanaticism ours needs to be nurtured and this is done annually with the release of our three different single-vineyard riesling wines. They provide a powerful reminder of riesling's unrivalled capacity to express the secrets of the soil that so captivated Collette.

Fruit for each of these three wines is grown in mature vines in the Frankland River region.

All were made in our winery by the same winemaking team but, despite having much in common, they each differ markedly and in so doing highlight the diversity of flavours possible within the riesling spectrum.

The three recently released single-vineyard riesling wines from the 2008 vintage are stylistically consistent with their much acclaimed predecessors but reflect the near perfect conditions experienced during one of the best growing seasons in recent memory.

Recent vintages of the Frankland Estate Isolation Ridge Riesling have been consistently ranked as one of Australia's finest and we are confident the powerful and complex yet exceptionally elegant 2008 wine will further enhance its reputation among those seeking a riesling that refreshes the parts others cannot!

It has highly concentrated lime and mineral aromas with tightly wound, mouth-filling flavours that build to a vibrant crescendo of lime, spice and refreshing mineral infused acidity.

As always, we feel duty bound to explain that the 2008 Frankland Estate Poison Hill Vineyard Riesling is not a wine designed specifically for dinner with the in-laws but, instead, owes its curious name to the vineyard being located on a hill where Heartleaf Clover is found.

This clover is poisonous to all but indigenous animals and the threat it posed to livestock was signalled on the maps of early settlers in typically forthright language. Fortunately Poison Hill has proved to be a riesling paradise.

The captivating wet stone and tropical fruit aromas that waft out of a freshly poured glass quickly dispel any doubts created by the

unusual name. These are complemented by concentrated fruit flavours with mineral earthy notes and a distinctive silky texture reflecting the quartz and clay soils of the vineyard. The long persistent finish has both subtlety and nuance as well as a generosity of flavour that suggesting rich rewards for those who cellar this wine.

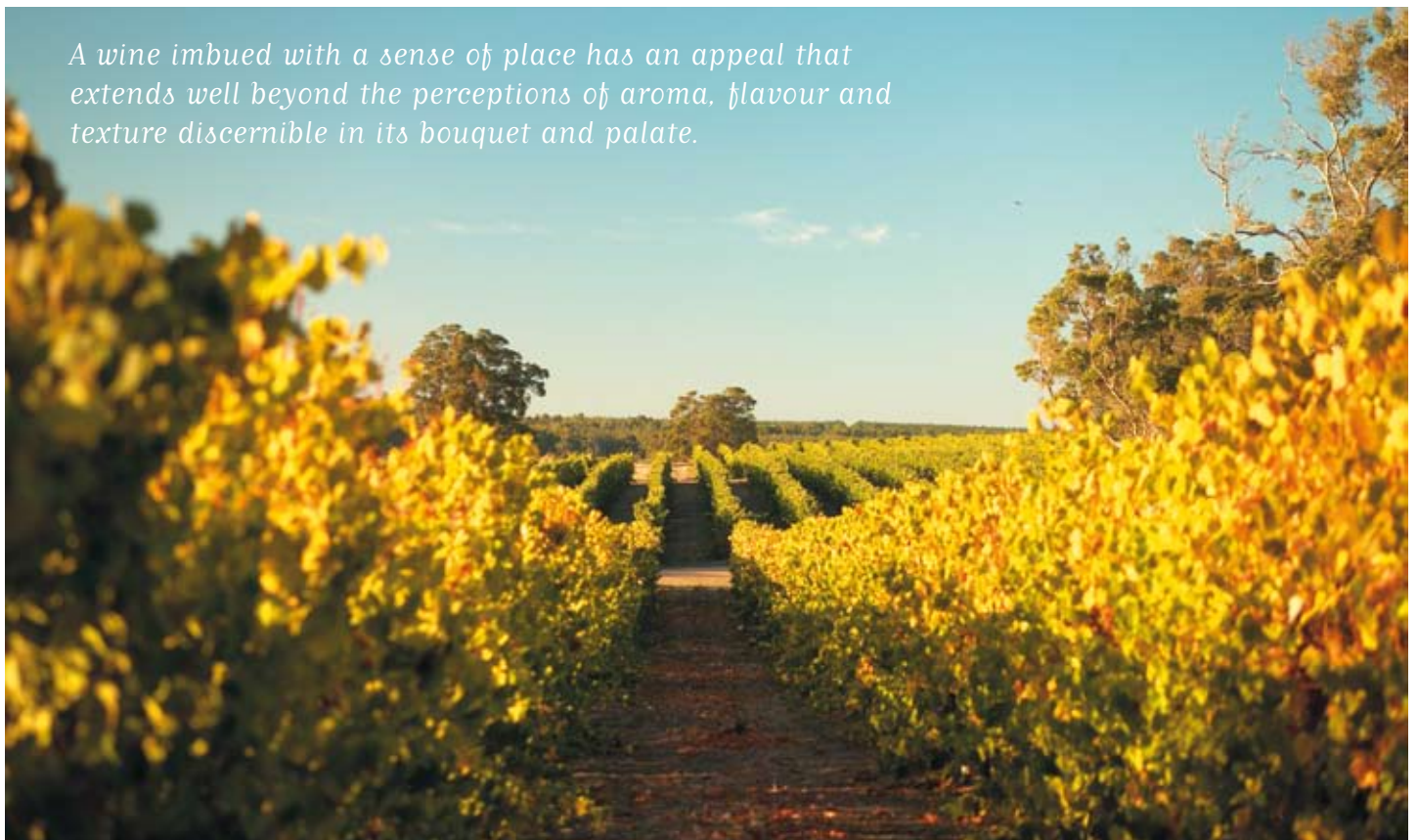
In contrast to the clay soils of the Poison Hill Vineyard the Cooladerra vineyard sits on a steep ironstone knoll with rocky, intensely fired ironstone gravel soils. The Frankland Estate 2008 Cooladerra Riesling is the epitome of riesling grown on rock and tastes as if the ironstone soils were liquefied in the glass. It has exotic fruit and wild herb aromas, textured layers of concentrated citrus and tropical fruit flavours with a flinty mineral-infused acidity carrying them through to long-lingering finish.

Three different rieslings from vineyards in the Frankland River region; each distinctively different; all decidedly delicious.

#### RIESLING ROCKS IN OBAMALAND!

That others are, at last, beginning to share our enthusiasm for riesling is becoming increasingly apparent. According to the Nielsen riesling sales in the USA from 2006 to 2008, measured by dollar value and by case sales, were up 98% and 87% respectively. Other research indicates its appeal is broadest among younger drinkers in the 21-39 age group suggesting riesling can no longer be considered a fashion victim.

*A wine imbued with a sense of place has an appeal that extends well beyond the perceptions of aroma, flavour and texture discernible in its bouquet and palate.*



# On Riesling

JUDI CULLAM.

*This year we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the founding of Frankland Estate, hosted the 5th biennial Frankland Estate International Riesling Tasting in Melbourne and welcomed our third grandchild into the Frankland Estate family. Ample excuse, were it needed, to reflect on the last 20 years and to consider the prospects for the next two decades.*



Given the riesling-oriented theme of this edition I thought it appropriate to make some comments on the object of our 'shameless infatuation.'

Regional history, scientific theory and the usual combination of personal preference and blind prejudice all conspired to persuade us to plant riesling when we established Frankland Estate.

Regional history supported the view that Frankland River had outstanding potential for riesling even if proof in the form of bottled wines was hard to find in 1988.

The most compelling arguments for planting riesling in Frankland came from scientists such as Professor Harold Olmo and, more recently, Dr John Gladstones who drew attention to the almost ideal climate conditions featuring moderate ripening temperatures and relatively low spring rainfall.

Like many aspiring vigneron, we were driven as much by our heart as by our head and had long been influenced by the potential of riesling to ravish the senses while engaging the intellect. Stuart Pigott, the renowned riesling expert, suggests a good riesling should have elegance, tension - the distinctive, vibrant nerviness in riesling created by the interplay between all the flavour components and the acidity - and, above all else, individuality.

In appealing to both the senses and the intellect a good riesling should, he contends, present a challenge to wine drinkers by not revealing all at once. It should intrigue and fascinate by starting slowly and building to a crescendo of concentrated flavours. Our ambition to make such wines, together with our belief in the regional potential of Frankland River, overcame any reservations we may have had about what was, in the early 1990's, a distinctly unfashionable variety.

We released the first Frankland Estate Riesling in 1991 and quickly learned riesling was not just unfashionable but not even on the radar screen of most fine wine drinkers. The small number of riesling aficionados were mainly interested in wines from the Clare and Eden Valleys and few had any knowledge of Frankland River wines.

*We thereupon embarked on a "crusade" with three major objectives; to promote the joys of drinking fine riesling, to build awareness of the Frankland River region and, most critically, to promote Frankland Estate riesling.*

As a small producer with limited marketing resources this "crusade" was fought by way of personal presentations, through our newsletter and our website. In addition we sponsored the biennial Frankland Estate International Riesling Tasting. The first such event was held in Sydney in 2000 featuring a comparative tasting of over 30 of the world's finest dry riesling wines and a series of riesling-focused workshops for those in the wine trade. The most recent event was the 2008 tasting held in Melbourne.

These events have attracted participation by Europe's finest riesling producers and contributed to greater appreciation of the quality and diversity of riesling wines.

On a personal level we have gained much from our exposure to riesling producers from Germany, Austria and Alsace. In particular we have learned lots about how they achieve such marvelous complexity in their wines and about their commitment to making wines that offer an authentic expression of vineyard character. From them we learned that 'small is beautiful' and marveled at the compellingly distinctive wines they made from single vineyards, or specific vineyard blocks, or even specific rows of vines within a vineyard

Inspired by their example we decided in 2001 to start producing two other individual vineyard rieslings from the Frankland River region to complement our Isolation Ridge vineyard riesling. We were fortunate to be able to source riesling fruit from two small, relatively mature vineyards within the region even if one of them had the distinctly unglamorous name of Poison Hill.

Our three individual vineyard rieslings are now consistently rated among Australia's best. Each speaks of the soil in unique and distinctive terms and provide powerful support to Keats' assertion, "The poetry of the earth is never dead."

Our approach to riesling continues to evolve. We seek to achieve greater complexity in our wines and to make them more distinctively different in both expression and structure. In the last ten years our rieslings have evolved from having predominant lemon-lime characters to be wines of greater complexity with a distinctive spicy earthiness and acid-infused minerality as well as the capacity to retain freshness and vibrancy well into their second decade.

Our adoption of organic viticultural practices in the Isolation Ridge vineyard has resulted in greater depth and clarity to the flavours in our wines. In the winery our on going experiments with the use of large oak 'foudres' continues to produce exciting results that are reflected in the texture and structure of our wines.

We are striving to achieve a magical synthesis of power and intensity with a lightness of touch and a degree of delicacy akin to petals falling on silk.

It's a bold ambition but we are making good progress as is evident in all our 2008 riesling wines.



*Wine lovers from near and afar gathered at the winery on November 15 to celebrate the Flowering of the Vine and the 20th anniversary of the founding of Frankland Estate.*

Fine weather and a tasting of select old and new vintages got the day off to a bright start. Faced with the challenge of feeding over 200 hungry appetites John Maiorana and Vince Gareffa rose to the challenge with their usual aplomb and, as usual, spiced up the occasion with their wickedly risqué humour.

Judi Cullam provided insights into the trials and tribulations of the last 20 years and told a cautionary tale of the dangers of denying wine, shopping and hair appointments to women. A measure of the day's success was that as the sun set in Frankland many Flowering of the Vine celebrants appeared somewhat wilted.

## Frankland Estate 2008 Isolation Ridge Vineyard Riesling.

One of the leaders in riesling making and promotion. This is a terrific lemon zesty wine with lingering fresh rind and a lovely crisp acid finish.

**RAY JORDAN. TOP 100 WINES.  
THE WEST AUSTRALIAN**

