



Some of Australia's most exciting new wines are emerging from the cellars of corporate refugees - winemakers who gained a heap of experience working for the big multinational grog companies before setting out on their own.

Kerri Thompson left the Leasingham winery in the Clare Valley a year ago to concentrate on her own label, KT and the Falcon, which she's established with her viticulturist husband, Steve Farrugia. The couple run their own vineyard biodynamically, but also take grapes from other low-input vineyards in the region such as Bunny and Yvonne Peglidis' riesling block at Watervale. Not surprisingly, given the high standard she maintained at Leasingham and the quality of grapes she's using, Thompson's new wines are spectacular: the 2007 Single Vineyard Riesling (\$35) in particular is pure, crisp and lime-zesty.

Larry Cherubino's reputation was forged at Houghton winery in WA. Since leaving in 2003, he has been consulting and developing his own, eponymous brand. And a brilliant line-up it is: regional WA varietals under The Yard label include a pristine, thrilling 2007 Riesling (\$24), while the quirkily packaged Ad Hoc range offers superb-value wines including the pea-poddy, chalky 2007 Straw Man Margaret River Sauvignon Blanc Semillon (\$22) and the spicy, firm and dark 2005 Ad Hoc Middle of Everywhere Frankland Shiraz (also \$22). More: [www.ktandthefalcon.com.au](http://www.ktandthefalcon.com.au); [www.larrycherubino.com.au](http://www.larrycherubino.com.au) ©

#### **MOJO RISING**

##### **2006 MOJO SHIRAZ \$15**

Another corporate refugee (ex-Penfolds), Tim Burvill, established his own, now-successful brand, RockBare, in 2001. The latest addition to the RockBare lineup is the bargain Mojo range, which includes this plush, gluggable young shiraz. [www.rockbare.com.au](http://www.rockbare.com.au)



#### **MAMRE RIESLING**

##### **2007 MAMRE BROOK EDEN VALLEY RIESLING \$27**

And just to show that I'm not entirely anti-big companies and their wines, here's a stunning, cellarworthy riesling from the House of Fosters: amazingly intense and nervy right now, it'll mature beautifully over the next decade or so. [www.saltramwines.com.au](http://www.saltramwines.com.au)

