UNCORKED

Ralph Kyte-Powell

Wine of the week

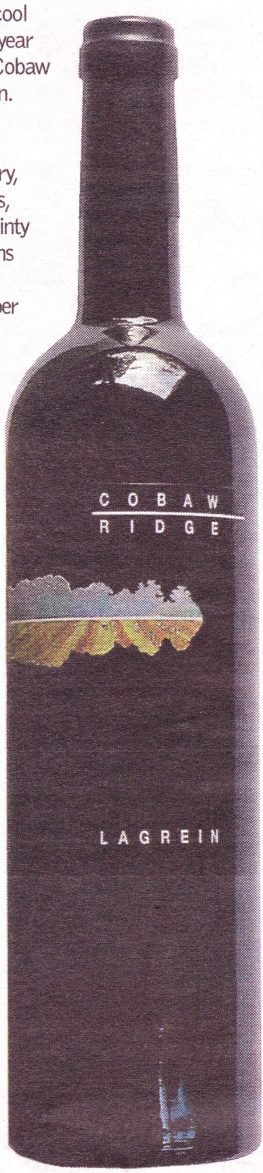
Cobaw Ridge Lagrein 2008 $58-$60

COMMENTARY about "alternative" grape varieties in recent years has been disproportionate to their significance in the marketplace. They're certainly interesting, but are they all really *that* interesting? Many whites are simply neutral and characterless. Alternative reds can be mawkish and unrefined — but not this one.

Lagrein, a native of Italy's cool north-east, has been an 18-year passion for the Coopers at Cobaw Ridge in the Macedon region. This '08 illustrates lagrein's appeal well, with its intense colour, black-cherry, raspberry, rose petal and cedar aromas, deep flavour dabbed with minty freshness, dry kernelly tannins and long finish. It's full of interest. (Screw cap; 12.5 per cent alcohol.)

Ageing? Drink over five years.

Food ideas Soy-braised pork hocks; racks of lamb.

Stockists include Blackhearts & Sparrows stores; Cloudwine, South Melbourne.

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