

Into reality worth toasting

Garry Capelli had a dream – a fantasy involving a lake on a property in serene Denmark, a place the high-flying financial adviser had been visiting on spare weekends for more than 10 years.

Mr Capelli and his partner Leanne Rogers searched far and wide in Denmark for the perfect holiday property to make Garry's dream a reality.

But when that vision materialised on quiet Turner Road off the Mt Shadforth tourist drive, they got more than they bargained for.

In the almost five years since purchasing the property, Mr Capelli and Ms Rogers have developed one of the region's most popular wineries and eateries, giving up corporate careers in Perth in the process.

The rustic, boutique winery and restaurant is a welcome addition to the local tourism and viticulture market, with quality and not quantity top of the agenda.

Mr Capelli and Ms Rogers' passion for the business is what makes it a must on the list for a relaxing tour of the Great Southern as they invite locals and visitors to share in their own piece of paradise.

They have brought with them a simple, yet professional attitude to the business – it starts with the welcome as you walk through the door and is typified by the pair's commitment to opening seven days a week, all year round.

From the materials used, to the way the vines are harvested, Mr Capelli's insistence on biodiversity practices and attention to detail in the wine-making process have prompted him to classify Lake House wines as hand made.

The Lake House has not just



Lake House Denmark owners Leanne Rogers and Garry Capelli standing within the homely winery atmosphere.

stuck with its top-class wine.

It has also expanded into *Vino Food* developed by Ms Rogers from their own wine and now served as part of the winery's popular lunch platters.

They also produce Wine Spa products, which use the natural antioxidants of grapes to market body and bath products.

When it comes to eating at the Lake House, Mr Capelli worked

from a simple idea.

"I just wanted us to have everything you would want in your fridge if you were having a bottle of wine with friends," Mr Capelli said.

To that end the Lake House's range of platters and freshly-baked bread provide a delicious, yet simple sampling of tastes to share with friends as visitors enjoy the range of wine available

including chardonnay, semillon sauvignon blanc, shiraz, merlot and pinot noir.

At the end of the month the Lake House will once again represent the Great Southern in the Perth Good Food and Wine Show but for Mr Capelli and Ms Rogers it is more about watching stressed winery visitors leave laughing after an enjoyable afternoon spent at the Lake House.