

## IRON CHEF CONTENDER



Iron Chef hopeful Jake Drachenberg. PICTURE: DEREK POOL

# Jake on secret chefs' business

**NATALIE BROWN**

CAPES chefs are in the mix to receive national exposure in Channel Seven's theatrical cooking show remake *Iron Chef*, which debuts in Australia this year.

Head chefs Jake Drachenberg from Clairault Winery and Aaron Carr from Vasse Felix were contacted by the show's producers Shine to apply for the cooking competition.

The show, which originates from

Japan, is set to include guest chefs from around Australia, according to Mr Drachenberg, who received the impromptu offer by telephone while shopping.

After an hour-long interview, the chef was filmed for a snippet for consideration for the show.

While he said details of the show were being kept quiet, he believed the footage would be considered for one of six episodes to be screened in the show's first series later this year. He said he had not been in-

formed how or when the footage would be used.

"It's all very hush hush. They filmed me in the kitchen at work," Mr Drachenberg told the *Times*.

"It is mega-flattering. It will be incredible for the area."

The chef, who was brought up in Walpole, said he moved to the Capes region "chasing the lifestyle" and has also worked in several other restaurants in Dunsborough and Margaret River.

Mr Drachenberg said the producers were looking for "underdogs" of the hospitality industry to appear on the show and the inclusion of him or Mr Carr in the show would showcase the culinary delights available in the South West, which he believed were some of the best.

"We're so far ahead of our rural counterparts," he said. "It's nice to know our area isn't being forgotten."

A Seven Network announcement

said production for the show would start in Melbourne next month and the show would put "iron chefs" Neil Perry, Guy Grossi and Guillaume Brahimi up against chef contestants.

Chefs would be asked to cook four dishes in an hour using ingredients such as live squid.

Shine Productions, who recently bought the rights to popular cooking show *Masterchef*, were contacted for comment, but did not respond by the *Times*' deadline.