

Plenty of room on the ark for ardent imbibers

WINE-ARK has officially opened its Sydney business. This brings the Internet at one end and temperature-controlled bricks and mortar — at the other end.

The concrete vault is the wine storage location in the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's new printing building, now owned by Kennards Self Storage. The cellar is kept at a constant 14C and 70 per cent relative humidity. Wine-ark has

online cellar management software that provides clients with 24-hour access to their wine portfolios and a host of related information.

A subscription to the wine-ark cellar club costs \$50, which includes invitations to 12 wine tastings a year. Those who join before June 30 will qualify for founding membership status, entitling them to lifetime preferential rates and services. Membership does not cover the cost of wine storage, which is charged monthly on a per-case basis. Details through Dean Taylor, by phone (02) 9565 4050, fax (02) 9565 4130 or e-mail: ark@wine-ark.com

THE Boutique Wine Workshops 2000 wine courses are designed to cater for the wine lover, wine investor and wine novice; no prior knowledge is



On the grapevine

required. Each of the four evening sessions runs from 6.30pm to 8.30pm; the first course runs May 3, 10, 17 and 24; the next course runs June 6, 13, 20 and 27.

A minimum of 10 wines per session will be served to illustrate new varieties and styles being pioneered by boutique producers. The cost is \$195 per

person. For bookings and further details, phone (02) 9518 6937 or fax (02) 9518 6941.

THE Mornington Peninsula's Queen's Birthday Wine Weekend will henceforth be known as Winter Wine Weekend, or WW. Organisers say it is more interactive, offering real-time tastings, megabytes of delicious food, instant downloads of the latest vintage, and jazz. The centrepiece is a tasting of more than 100 local wines on Saturday, June 10, at the Frankston Cultural Centre. Thirty local winemakers will be present, before dispersing on the Sunday and Monday to stage events at their

cellar doors. For a brochure on WW that lists events at each winery, contact Cheryl Lee, by phone (03) 5985 2377, fax (03) 5989 2387 or e-mail: mpva@bigpond.com

AMONG the many claimants for the first wine made in the new millennium is Chateau Hornsby of Alice Springs. The question of who precisely made the first wine has been discussed ad nauseam; suffice it to say that the Denis Hornsby Early Red 2000 is the first wine I have tasted. The Hornsby family, helped by 200 revellers, began handpicking the shiraz grapes a few minutes after New Year, finishing the job at dawn,

by which time 12 tonnes had been picked.

From this, 650 cases of wine were made, packaged in a tenpin-shaped bottle with a ceramic label. The wine is clean, fresh and fruity with quite evident residual sugar, which will appeal greatly to the novice or occasional wine drinker who shies away from conventional red wines because they are too dry or too tannic.

The wine is available at \$25 per bottle from selected liquor outlets. For further details, contact Denis Hornsby, by phone (08) 8955 5133, fax (08) 8955 5532 or e-mail: hornsby.king@octa4.net.au

□ JAMES HALLIDAY