

HUON HOOKE

CELLAR
TALK

Four global gongs

Australia did extraordinarily well at the London International Wine Challenge – the world's largest event of its kind, with 400 judges assessing 9000 entries from 40 countries. Four Australian wineries won best international trophies this year. In two of the most hotly contested varieties, **Kilikanoon** won best international shiraz with its 2005 Oracle from the Clare Valley and **Majella** won best international cabernet sauvignon with its 2005 Coonawarra Cabernet. **Tim Adams** (pictured) won best international semillon for his 2007 from the Clare Valley and **Yalumba** won best international viognier for the 2007 Virgilius. These results are worth making a fuss about. Australian wine in decline, as some overseas critics are saying? I don't think so.

Ark de triumph

Cellaring specialist **Wine-Ark** has expanded the number of vaults for rent at its Alexandria site. Another 160 private wine vaults are available, ranging from 10-12-case vaults to 450-case walk-in lockers. Phone Angus Hughson on 8338 8033.

Charity cases

A **Penfolds** Grange collector has donated 100 bottles to the Children's Cancer Institute Australia for Medical Research to raise funds. The donor, **Doug Crosby**, has been a collector for more than a decade and the donated wine ranges in vintage from 1981 to 1999. An institute spokeswoman says "we will be auctioning the bottles at a number of our boutique events".

