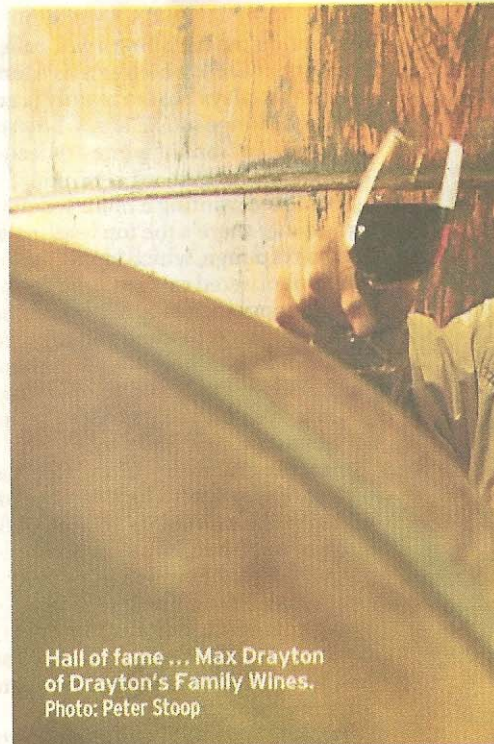


CELLAR TALK

ALL THE NEWS THAT'S FIT TO DRINK

◆ Six living legends of the Hunter Valley have been awarded for their achievements in the first-ever Hunter Valley Wine Awards, conceived by the new Wine Hunter Marketing. The six legends are Max Drayton OAM, who this year celebrated 60 years of continuous work in wine at Draytons; Dr Max Lake, who established icon winery Lakes Folly in 1963 and wrote many influential books on wine, beginning with *Classic Wines of Australia* in 1966; Karl Stockhausen, Lindemans winemaker for 35 years and for the past 10 years chairman of the tasting panel of the Hunter Valley Wine Society; Perc McGuigan, who worked for Penfolds at Dalwood, later pioneering the Upper Hunter when he established vineyards for Penfolds at Wybong, then opened Wyndham Estate in 1969; John Tulloch, who is known as the "elder statesman" of viticulture in the Broke Fordwich sub-region; and Brian Walsh, who made 30 vintages at McWilliam's Mount Pleasant and was pivotal in establishing the Lovedale vineyard's great reputation. Their names will be etched on an honour board to be displayed in the Hunter Valley Visitors' Centre. Four additional awards were announced at a dinner in the Hunter last Tuesday evening: Hunter Valley Winemaker of the Year – Andrew Spinaze of Tyrrell's; Rising Star of the Year – Christina Tulloch of Tulloch Wines; Vineyard of the Year – McWilliam's Lovedale; and Cellar Door of the Year – Tulloch Wines.

◆ Orange's Union Bank has packaged another of its interesting Orange Plus mixed dozens for winter. This one's theme is shiraz vignier



Hall of fame ... Max Drayton of Drayton's Family Wines.
Photo: Peter Stoop

blends. Selected by consultant Peter Bourne, each dozen includes Yering Station, Mitchelton, Bridgewater Mill, Ravensworth and Ferngrove as well as New Zealand's Te Mata Estate Woodthorpe Syrah to pit against the Orange region team of Belgravia, Printhe, Angullong, Philip Shaw and Manildra (the last is actually just outside Orange in the Central Ranges region). Check the range of styles and see how Orange stacks up. Cost \$250; Union Bank, corner of Byng and Sale streets, Orange. For inquiries, phone 6361 4441.