



HUON HOOKE CELLAR TALK

McWilliam's gives seal of approval to new bubbly

Almost 50 per cent of sparkling wine drinkers find it difficult to open a bottle, according to market research quoted by McWilliam's, owner of Evans & Tate. So the company has a novel solution on its new sparkling wine, Evans & Tate Zamphire (\$23): the Australian-made plastic closure called Zork. Designed to be resealable and keep bubbles in, it seems a clever invention at first glance. The research also showed customers want to stop opened bottles going flat, some resorting to cling-film or the old teaspoon-in-the-neck trick. How the Zork performs over time, keeping the fizz in and the wine fresh while avoiding plastic taint, remains to be seen. The cap opens



with an appropriate pop and is easy to re-apply. McWilliam's says it's the sparkling equivalent of the screwcap. And the wine? It's a youthful, grapey, passionfruit-scented, simple fruit-style, without yeast complexity but refreshing, with good balance and fine texture. Not bad.