

Just who says days of cork are over

By **BRYAN LITTLELY**

STEP aside screwcaps, a new bottle closure on the scene is set to return the romance of pulling a cork to wine lovers.

Adelaide-based wine closure company ProCork says its revolutionary membrane cork won't let wine drinkers down.

In fact, two years of research shows wine fares better under the new cork closure than screwcap.

Released to coincide with Wine Australia in Sydney today, Australian Wine Research Institute research shows ProCork wines had the lowest mean oxidation score, higher mean varietal fruit character scores, higher mean SO₂ and lower reduced like character scores than screwcaps and commercial corks.

The results, former CSIRO scientist and ProCork founder Dr Gregor Christie said, should be enough to attract wine producers to use the new corks, which have a synthetic membrane on both ends of a cork.

"Our own internal testing over the last couple of years has consistently shown ProCork to be the best performing closure and these results from a leading independent Australian research insti-

tute reinforce that testing," Dr Christie said.

"It is particularly noteworthy that in trials, like the independent AWRI trial, where the same wine was used, wine in ProCork shows higher varietal fruit and less reduced like characters than screwcapped wines."

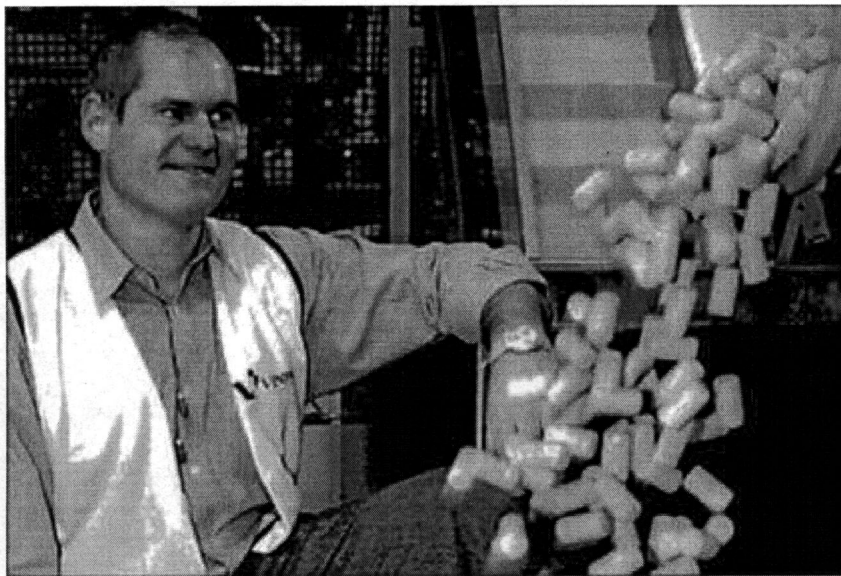
ProCork's membrane technology is applied to each end of the cork and is designed to optimise the storage environment for wine. The technology also significantly reduces flavour modification by reducing the amount of chemicals entering the wine and regulating the passage of oxygen through the cork.

The new technology enables natural cork to be used by winemakers with high certainty the membrane will reduce any off character imparted by the cork and allow true flavour development.

Cost savings through using ProCork in premium wines and for large volume commercial wines, are tipped to help return corks to bottles.

Australia's largest wine packaging company, Vinpack International, is producing the new corks at its Barossa Valley facility and using them exclusively in bottling wines.

‘The best performing closure’



BOTTLER: Vinpac Group technical manager Martin Caloghiris with the new corks
Picture: SARAH BEEN