



McLAREN VALE

Indiana Jones time as cellars found

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National Wine Writer

IT WAS a moment reminiscent of an Indiana Jones movie.

In the midst of making a film celebrating six generations of his family's history, noted Adelaide plastic surgeon and winery owner Dr Richard Hamilton went back to his childhood stompingground and rediscovered a lost piece of Australian winemaking heritage.

Dr Hamilton and Light Image Film's Rick Cavaggion

and Martin Gordon were poking around the old Hamilton family's Glengowrie homestead, once the centre of a huge winery and suburban vineyard estate now occupied by retirement homes, when the caretaker took them to a set of steps hidden between two houses.

"Lo and behold there's this entrance, and inside these great old cellars," Dr Hamilton said.

"I thought they'd been

filled in (and) now there are houses built over the top.

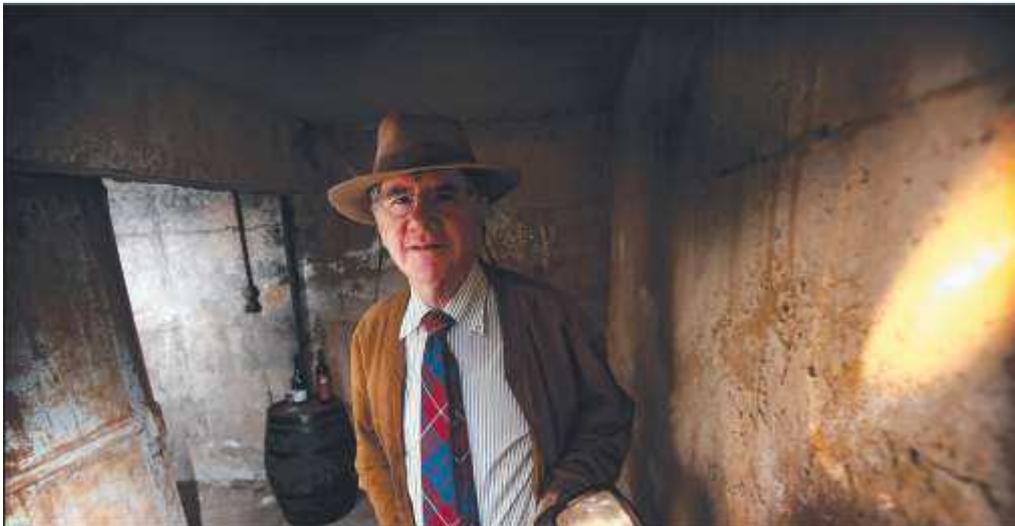
"The family didn't know about them ... Finding them again sent a tingle down my spine."

The cellars have great significance to Australia's winemaking history, he said, because they are thought to be the first to use refrigeration after Dr Hamilton's uncle Sydney dug them in 1945 when he began to make white wines.

"That was really the beginning of the table-wine industry in Australia - it began with Hamilton Ewell Moselle," he said.

The uncovering of the secret cellars was revealed at the launch of the film *Wine Line - the Hamilton Story* last week at Goodwood's Capri Cinema.

The 55-minute dramatised documentary will be offered later to television and cable channels.



Dr Richard Hamilton in the underground cellar of his family's old winery, uncovered during the making of a historical documentary.

Picture: MIKE BURTON