

for a drink

DIVERSIONS

with DAVID ELLIS

A HUNDRED years is a long time between drinks, but that's what Jan Lindrum is doing with her new Lindrum Estate wines.

Jan's great, great-grandfather, Friedrich Wilhelm von Lindrum was a pioneer of the Australian wine industry, and won Australia its first wine gold medal at the London International Exhibition of Fine Arts in 1873.

But he drifted away from winemaking to pursue another love, billiards. Within a few years he became Australia's first professional billiards champion, and his son Frederick II and grandson Frederick III (they changed the spelling of their names) also became professional champions.

Grandson Walter became the World Professional Billiards Champion, and a great-grandson Horace won both the World Professional Snooker title and the Australian Professional Billiards title, the only Australian to do so.

In all, the Lindrums dominated cue sports for 105 years, even granddaughter Clara played, but never attained a title. It wasn't that she wasn't a match for the boys, rather that there were no other women billiards players to challenge.

Undaunted at this, Clara went on to claim her own fame in another field: she formed Australia's first Dixieland jazz band in 1922.

Jan Lindrum says the contribution the family has made to primary industry, sport and entertainment is something all Australians should be proud of, which is why she's

resurrected the family's wine business to spread the word.

"You'll never see the brilliance of the Lindrums at the billiard table again, but I'd like to see the name live on through its wine origins," Jan says. "Horace was the first to put cue sports on television, in England in 1936, and to record 1000 snooker centuries."

The Lindrums were revered for decades in an era when exceptional billiard players were feted like great matadors. And as Friedrich's descendants also began gaining fame at the tables - practising a minimum eight hours a day as well as playing in competitions - the world authorities changed rules to help challengers: Didn't bother Walter Lindrum in particular; he simply went on to make a world record 3000 break.

To perpetuate the Lindrum family name and achievements, Sydney-based Jan has named the first Lindrum Wines after four of her champion ancestors: Clara Semillon Chardonnay 2000, Friedrich III Chardonnay 2000, Walter Shiraz 1999 and Horace Cabernet Shiraz 1999.

The wines are made at Langhorne Creek in South Australia; if you enjoy a white try the Frederick III Chardonnay with roasted cod and garlic potato mash, and for red lovers the Walter Shiraz with rack of lamb, crispy baked potatoes and greens.

(Each wine costs around \$17.75 a bottle; if you have difficulty finding them, contact The National Liquor Company on 9966 4804.)