

DRINK

Australian-owned Holey Dollar Rum is bringing the dark spirit back. It's not trying to win over the Bundy and Coke crowd but instead wants to squeeze onto the top shelves of bars globally.

The Overproof rum, at \$65 a bottle, was voted best in its class at the recent London International Wine and Spirits Competition, hot on the heels of being awarded best Mai Tai at the New York Ultimate Cocktail Challenge and won awards at the 2011 Rum Masters Series in London. Holey Dollar Rum is made of Fijian molasses and is pot-stilled, a labour-intensive batch-by-batch process.

Holey Dollar owner Stuart Gilbert (pictured) says the rum is not for people who want to drink a bottle all at once, he's making a product like a single malt whisky. Just don't mix it with cola, he pleads.

"When you mix it with Coke it doesn't distinguish the taste of Holey Dollar Rum," Gilbert says. "But if you mix it with ginger ale you actually get the flavours of the rum coming out."

One night this week your correspondent had to exercise quite some discretion to end a series of top-ups of a rum mixer in which the Holey Dollar rum excelled. The exact dimensions of its charm remain best described by the more sophisticated palates of the International Wine and Spirits Competition 2011 judges.

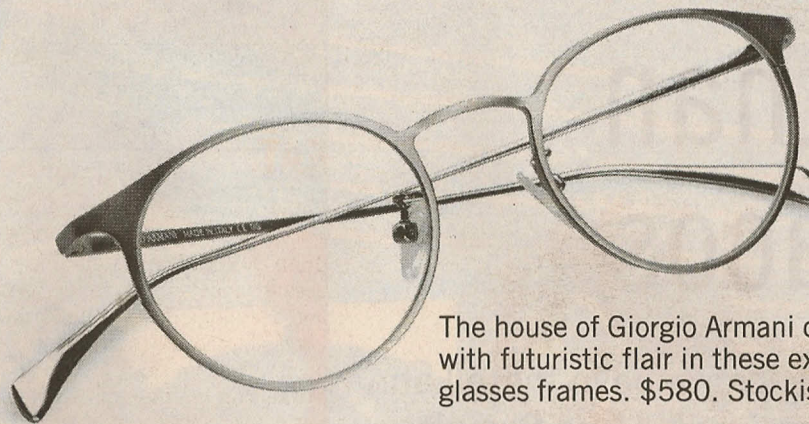
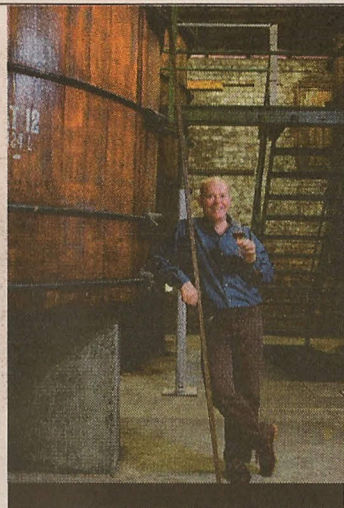
They said the 57 per cent alcohol overproof rum was "rich and full on the nose and in the mouth with spice, exotic fruit, raisin and lots of oak.

Clean in all respects. Lots of treacle with some bitter caramel giving some unexpected bite. Big and full bodied with woody, spicy finish."

Gilbert says he is proud of the company he owns with his father and "absolutely delighted" at the accolades that keep flowing in.

The rum is named for the coins made by Governor Macquarie in the earliest days of Australia's colonial history.

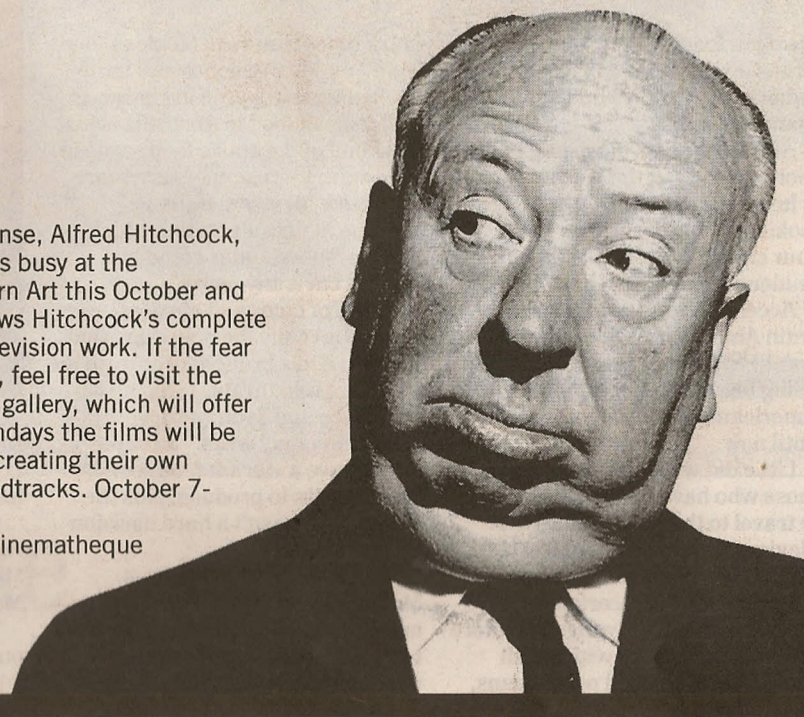
Macquarie ordered the middle punched out of 40,000 Spanish dollars, creating 40,000 holey dollars and 40,000 small coins known as dumps. **Jason Murphy**



The house of Giorgio Armani combines vintage design with futuristic flair in these extra-lightweight titanium glasses frames. \$580. Stockists: 02 9540 0500

WATCH

The original master of suspense, Alfred Hitchcock, will be keeping the projectors busy at the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art this October and November as the gallery shows Hitchcock's complete opus of feature films and television work. If the fear and anxiety is overwhelming, feel free to visit the Hitchcock lounge inside the gallery, which will offer drinks and light jazz. On Sundays the films will be accompanied by musicians creating their own versions of Hitchcock's soundtracks. October 7-November 27, tickets \$6 to \$9, www.qag.qld.gov.au/cinematheque



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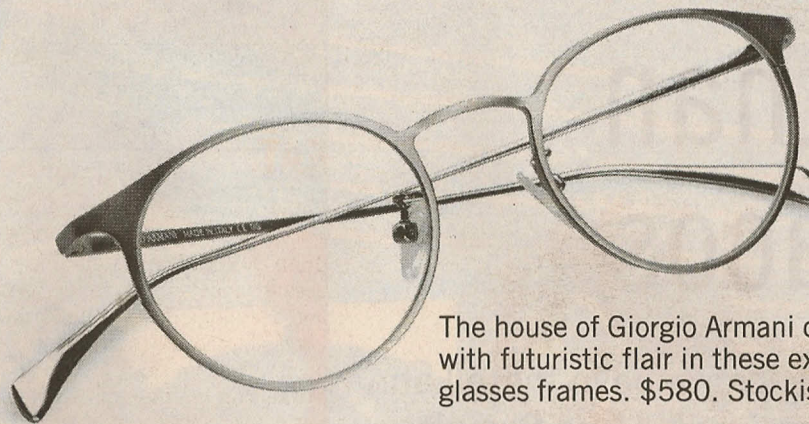
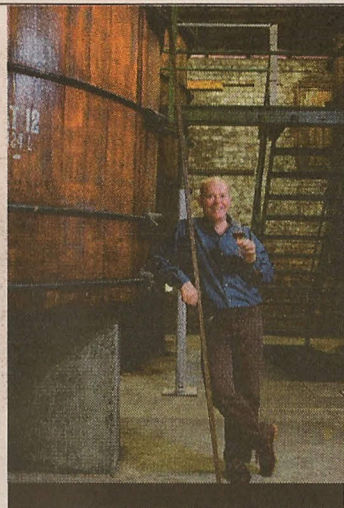
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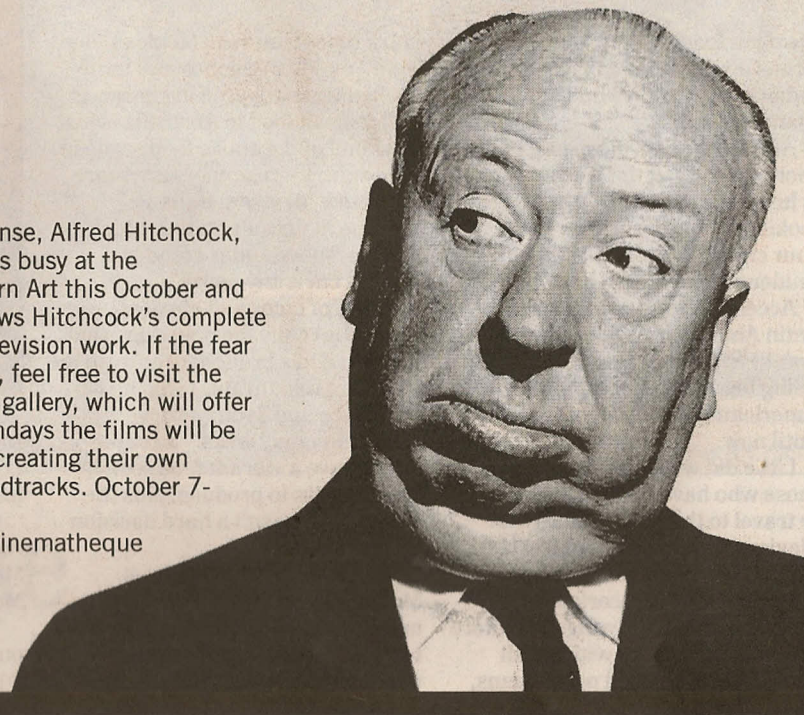
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