

# Built to Taste

Designing your dream home's wine room

**W**ho should think about building a wine room? India Hynes, CEO of Vinotemp, based in Irvine, California, says the classic wine cellar owner is the person who always brings the best wine to a party. "It's their passion," she says. "It's their collection."

If you're ready to take your love of wine to the next level, you have plenty of options when designing your dream home.

**Start small.** A wine cooler built into your kitchen, bar or butler's pantry will help you store some of your favorites at the correct temperature and humidity.

**Commission a cabinet.** As your collection grows, a wine cabinet might be the perfect storage solution. "If you're enjoying wine, and going to vineyards and tastings, it's a bigger part of your life," Hynes says. A wine cabinet can house several hundred bottles and can be placed anywhere in your home. These cabinets come in a variety of styles to match any décor. Sizes range: Some hold 100 bottles; some can house 500 or more.

**Go all out.** Thinking even bigger? A wine cellar is the ultimate luxury for aficionados. Your cellar will keep your

wines at a consistent temperature and maintain the perfect humidity. The walls and ceiling of a cellar or wine room must be well-insulated and a vapor barrier is necessary for the floor. The door on a cellar must seal tightly to maintain the ideal conditions.

When outfitting your cellar, keep in mind that storage racks come in many styles and materials. Your first decision will be to estimate how many bottles you will keep on hand. Next, consider how you'll use the space. Will you host impromptu tastings in your cellar? Will it be adjacent to a dining area or recreation

room? Because cellars are a bit chilly, Hynes recommends using glass-enclosed walls in wine rooms meant for entertaining. The collection is visible through the glass, but the tasting room can be kept warm enough for guests to linger there.

In designing a wine room or cellar, be sure to incorporate space for furniture and storage for wine accessories and glassware. Artwork brings a bit more personality to the space, which could also be brightened with accent lighting.

For more information, search "wine cellars" online or talk to a wine-room design expert.



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