

ARIZONA lifestyle

YOUR GUIDE THROUGH ARIZONA'S SIGNATURE HOMES

January - March 2005

TINY BUBBLES

Collecting and storing wine

HIGH CLASS GLASS

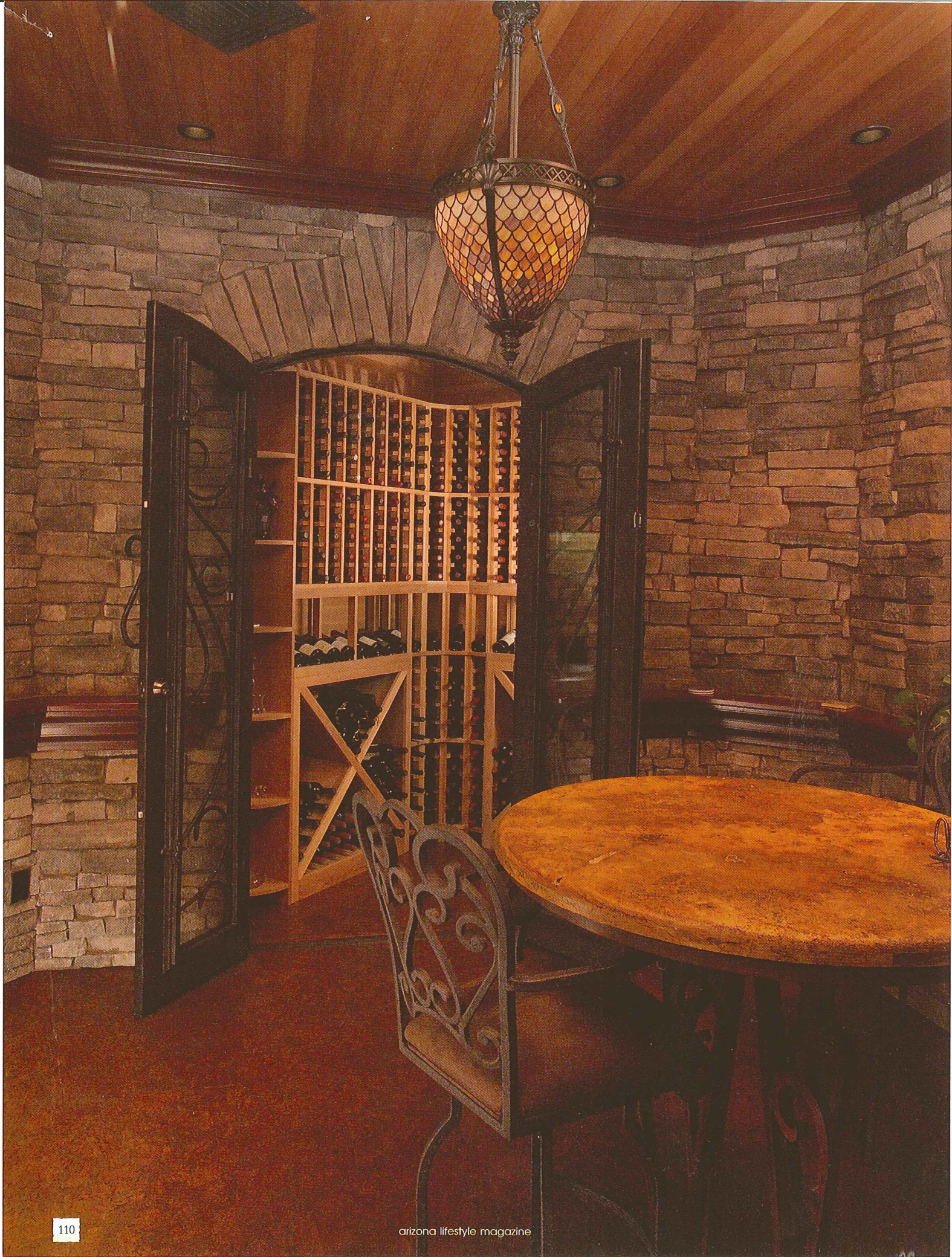
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COLLECTING AND STORING WINE

It's a small but rapidly growing fraternity, the conservatively estimated 50,000 Americans who consider themselves to be serious wine collectors or connoisseurs. Even if you're not one of them, you could be among those who pushed wine sales in the United States to 627 million gallons last year, an increase of 32 million gallons over sales in 2002.

If wine collecting has piqued your interest, you may be contemplating adding a wine cellar (also called a wine room) to your home. It's probably one of the most fun home improvement projects you can undertake and it has a high return on investment.

"A wine cellar will definitely increase the value of your home," says Sandy Horwitz, president of Innovative Wine Cellar Designs in Scottsdale. "It's also aesthetically pleasing and creates a wonderful ambience. It's nice to be able to look into a small room with a beautiful glass door, stone floors, walls painted with perhaps a Tuscan theme and interesting, low-voltage xenon track lighting. The wine room becomes a focal point in the home, a place where people congregate and enjoy conversation."

Opposite page: In this unique wine cellar by Wine Room Solutions, the option of in-cellar dining is available.



Innovative Wine Cellar Designs installed this spacious walk-in wine room.

Below: After the Vine Wine Cellars can custom make wine storage units such as this one.

There are a number of decisions associated with building a wine room. You have to choose the type of wood you want for the wine racks, flooring, wall treatments and accents.

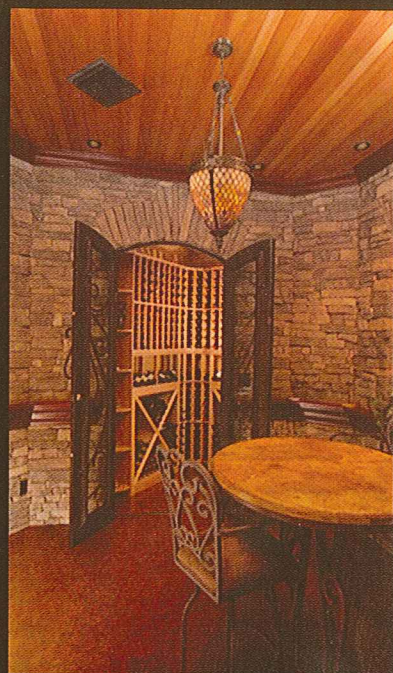
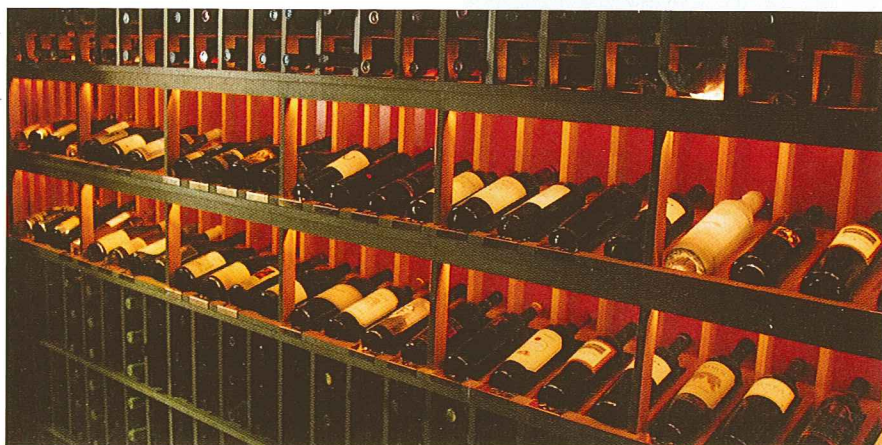
"We recommend all-heart redwood for the racking," says Biehler. "It doesn't need a finish and it's naturally resistant to rot and mildew. It is a soft wood and won't harm the bottles or labels. You can also use poplar, oak, walnut or mahogany, but staining or painting is needed."

"Redwood and cedar are the most popular woods, but we also use an

engineered mahogany from Brazil," adds Tom Oksas, a designer with Wine Room Solutions. "We like the fact that the trees grow out of regenerating root stock."

"Travertine, tile and slate are the most popular choices for flooring," Horwitz says.

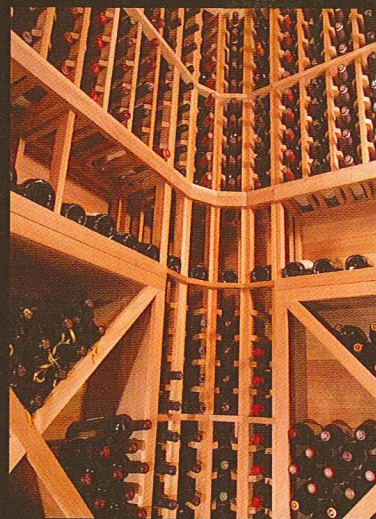
Walls will typically feature custom paint and artwork, a mural or stained glass. "You can also consider architectural details," Biehler says, "such as dramatic arches. The most important thing, though, is to make



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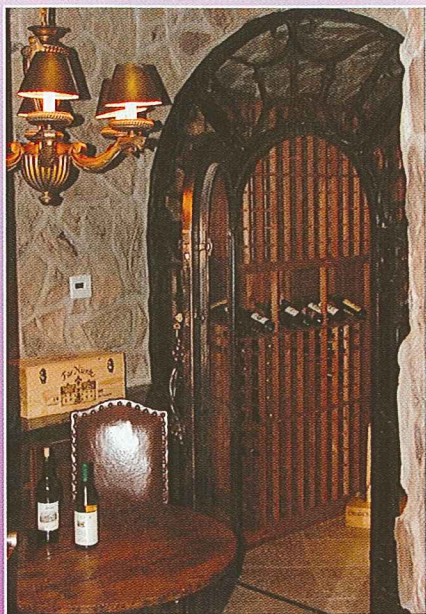
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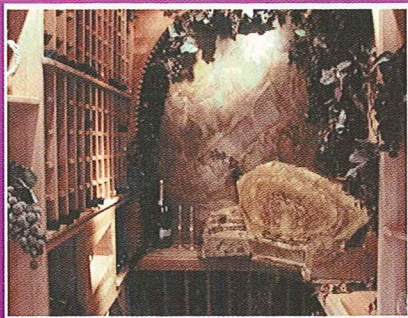
Wine Cellars

BY DESIGN

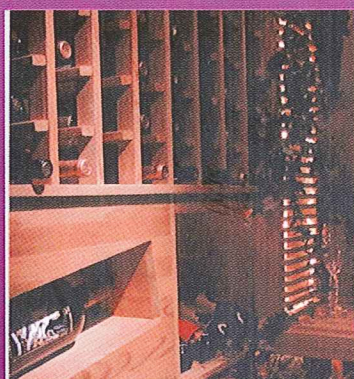
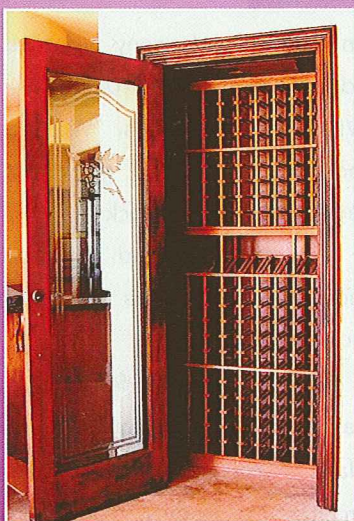


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sure you use high-quality materials. Don't skimp on your cabinetry, paint or flooring." He says rich paint colors on the walls, such as bright red, tend to minimize empty spaces in the wine racks. "A white wall tends to emphasize the empty spaces," he says.

Biehler says you might consider statues as accent pieces. "Those with wine themes are interesting," he says. Horwitz suggests creating a "bistro effect" with a small table and chairs or a table carved out of a wine barrel. "You can also take cut-in-half wine barrels and hang them on the wall," he says.

Costs for constructing a wine room are more reasonable than you might expect. "For the racking portion, you can figure about \$5 per bottle that will be stored," says Arndt.

Biehler says total prices range from \$5 to \$20 per bottle stored, depending on the size of the room and the options selected.

"One of the biggest cost factors," says Horwitz, "is the refrigeration unit. 'You'll want a 'split system,' starting at about \$2,800, where one part of the unit is inside the room and one part is outside the room. It's quieter than a less expensive unit and it doesn't generate heat into any other room in the house."

"A wine room isn't just for storage," says Arndt. "It can be used for wine tasting parties or small dinner parties, too. It can become one of the most interesting rooms in your home."

For more:

www.afterthevine.com

www.winecellardesigns.biz

style

AGED TO PERFECTION

Storing wine properly isn't just a good idea. It's a necessity. "If you don't store it properly, your wine will turn to vinegar," says Mike Biehler, president of After the Vine Wine Cellars in Scottsdale.

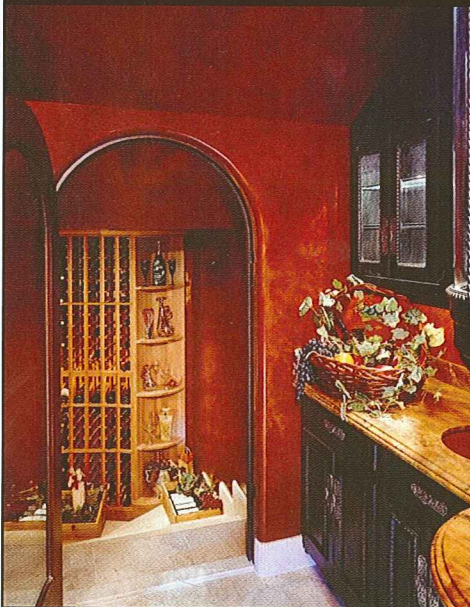
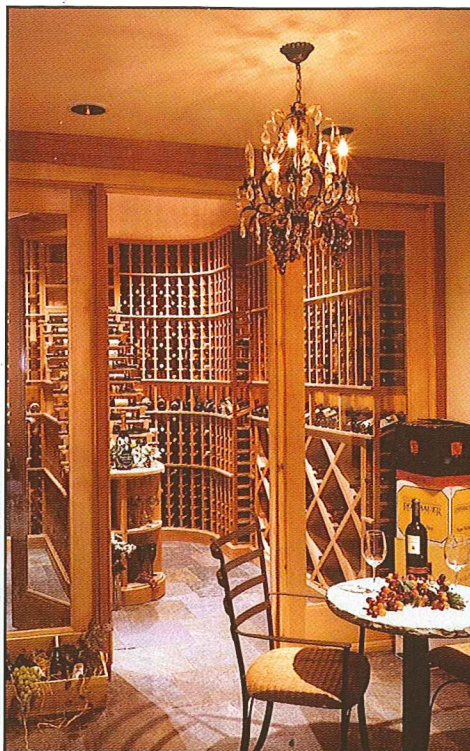
Temperature and humidity controls are imperative for wine storage. "The correct temperature range for wine storage is 55 to 62 degrees, for both red and white wine," says Sandy Horwitz, president of Innovative Wine Cellar Designs in Scottsdale. "Red and white are served at different temperatures, of course, but they're stored the same. Some wines are made to age and some are meant to be enjoyed right away. The right storage protects them both."

The humidity level must be at least 50 percent, Biehler says. "Between 50 and 75 percent humidity is ideal," he says.

Biehler says the goal for wine storage is "to keep it away from heat, light, vibration and oxidation. Oxidation is prevented by storing the wine on its side instead of vertically. That keeps the cork from drying out."

He says if a wine room is constructed correctly there is minimal maintenance required. "The refrigeration unit is easier to care for than a typical air conditioning unit," Biehler says. "And if you keep plenty of bottles of wine in the room to maintain a constant temperature, the refrigeration unit will go through fewer cycles and last longer."

—Debra Gelbart



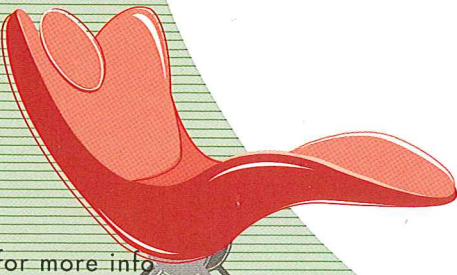
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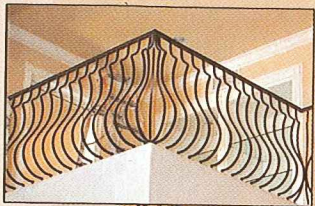
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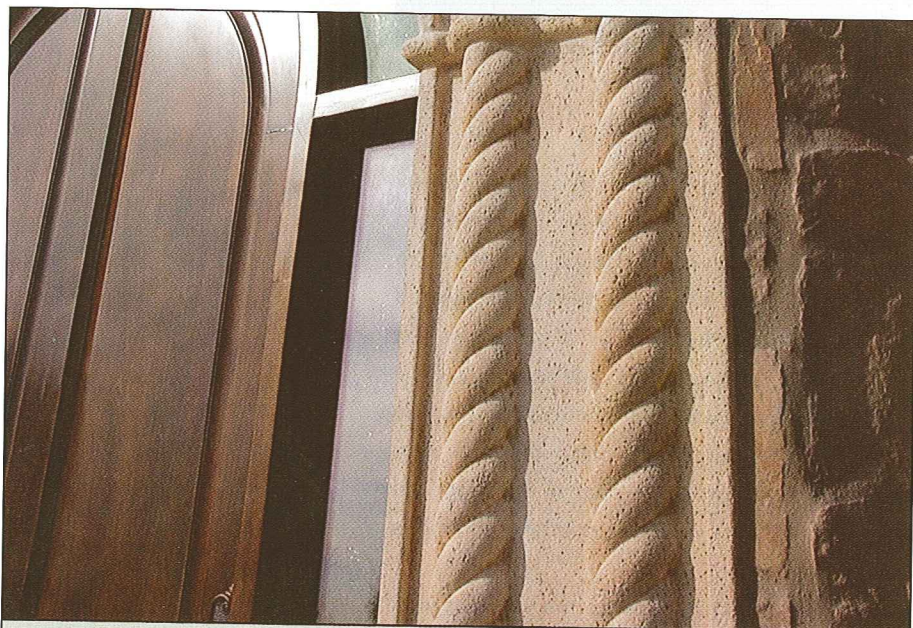
It's probably best to incorporate a wine room when building a new home, but many wine enthusiasts are expressing an interest in adding on to their existing home, says Mike Biehler, president of After the Vine Wine Cellars in Scottsdale. "The minimum space needed for a nice wine room is probably 4-by-8-foot," he says. "That would hold about 600 bottles. Ideally, a larger space is needed to truly showcase your wine collection. I tell clients it's easier to scale up than scale down."

Storage closets, pantries and space under a stairway are the most

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popular choices for add-on wine rooms, Horwitz adds.

Wouldn't it be easier to just purchase a wine storage unit? "A storage unit in your kitchen is a great way to get started with wine collecting," says Dan Arndt, chairman of the board of Wine Room Solutions in Tempe. "But if you're planning on enlarging your wine collection and you'll be living in your home for a number of years, you may want to consider adding a room. A wine room is perfect for people who want to 'cocoon.' It provides a viable entertainment alternative for both wine connoisseurs and novices."



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