

Custom Home

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Custom on a Budget

Matching Dreams with Reality





"I had clients from California who are wine connoisseurs, and they wanted to do something really fun with their cellar," says architect Jay Dalglish. "I knew Willie Drake [from Mountain Lumber] had just acquired these giant wine casks from Bordeaux, and so we



Cask Call

figured out a way to use one of them." The aged barrel wasn't tall enough to walk through comfortably, so he had it raised on a plinth of wine racks. Contained within a 14-by-18-foot basement, the cask serves as a passage between a tasting area and storage for 2,000 bottles. The original chinks, used to keep the barrel in place, were incorporated into the design, while the entire front piece (spigot intact) is mounted on the wall and used as a serving bar. The circle of fine spirits is made complete with reclaimed barrels from the Guinness factory in Ireland, which were used to create many of the surrounding elements. Builder: Jeff Smith & SPN, Charlottesville, Va.; Architect: Dalglish, Eichman, Gilpin & Paxton, Charlottesville; Cabinetmaker: Hynek Bilek, Renaissance Cabinets, Louisa, Va.; Cask supplier: Mountain Lumber, Ruckersville, Va.; Photographer: Peter Vanderwarker.



Slow Sipping

The unused third bay of a garage seemed an ideal spot for this cozy cellar. The bay was enclosed in cultured stone and plaster to match the home's casual Mediterranean mood. A distressed pine door with an iron grille opens to reveal assorted racking systems with a combined 800-bottle capacity. Racks were inset to make the most of the room's 122 square feet. An old cask set on end serves as a table for two where the owner can comfortably sit and catalogue his wines or entertain a guest. "The style here is Old World, giving the impression of entering a cool, dark cellar," says designer and builder Billy Guerrero. Guerrero collaborated with the client to produce a place where "time is slowed down enough to enjoy the wine." Builder/designer: CG&S Design-Build, Austin, Texas; Photographer: Tina Weitz.



Stair Master

The clients' desire for a grand entry led Michael A. Colleary, proprietor of Southern Wine Cellars, to design this dramatic peek-a-boo wine storage center under the stairs. The owners relished the plan from the beginning, but Colleary had to conquer several challenges to make it reality. "The biggest obstacle was to be able to follow the curved rake of the stairs without leaving dead space," he says. By connecting individual redwood racks rather than using sections, they were able to closely follow the curved diagonal. To prevent awkward reaches as the ceiling dropped, Colleary turned the corner at about 3 feet and installed case cubbies. The problem of light transmission through the glass wall was solved by using a picture niche to push bottles away from direct light. Getting the right proportions on the cut-out was tricky, says Colleary. "We wanted to open it up, but not give it all away, so we used the top of the door as the upper end of our slope." Builder: Harbor Side Custom Homes, Palm Harbor, Fla.; Designer: Southern Wine Cellars, Palm Harbor; Cooling system designer: Wine Innovations, Cincinnati; Photographer: Michael A. Colleary.