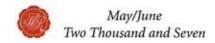
Volume 4 · Issue 3

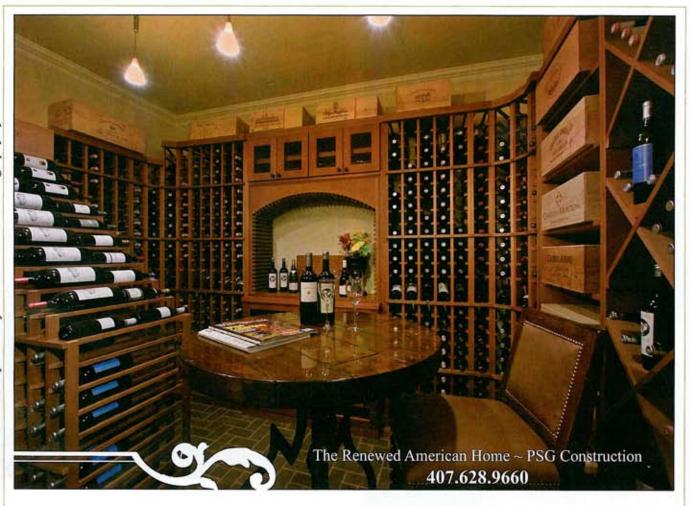
Orlando



HOME RENOVATION

GREATER ORLANDO'S LUXURY HOME RENOVATION MAGAZINE





WINE CELLARS: Then and Now

TODAY THE WORDS "WINE CELLAR" BRING MIND VARIOUS PICTURES, FROM THE BASEMENT CELLAR CUM TOMB IN POE'S THE CASK OF AMONTILLADO, WITH ITS DARK, DANK WALLS, TO ABOVE GROUND VERSIONS AND EVEN RETAIL STORES THAT SELL WINE AND ITS ACCOUTREMENTS. Though authored by The Bard, "Come, come, good wine is a good familiar creature, if it be well used," they are words that are appropriate to chisel over any wine cellar today. For over 5000 years, there have been standards for wine cellars. From the earliest records in 3100 B.C. (Egyptian civilization) the requirements to keep wines fresh have remained constant. Some things don't change: wine is still a perishable food product which needs to be kept under proper temperature (preferably 50 degrees F), in darkness, at controlled humidity levels, to keep it from spoiling. But wine's homes have changed. Where once it lived chiefly in caves and cellars, today electricity has brought wine upstairs. There are a myriad of above-ground ways to preserve the precious fluid.

If you are a wine aficionado, and "hands on" is your

style, you have several options. From small half-size wine refrigerators that take up little room, to larger models, or add-on or built-in cabinet styles. Within this category your options include titanium units with glass fronts, above or below the sink types, with your choice in finishes. Some cellars can serve as living room furniture, or as a large entertainment center. Others can reside hidden under the staircase. If you'd rather make a lifestyle of your wine hobby, and want a full cellar for all of your social events, you can have a room added on, or a cellar built under your house. There are also designer wine cellars/rooms made to depict the sight and feel of the old wine cellars.

Whatever level of renovation you pursue, each one will afford you decades of enjoyment. An excellent bottle of wine will enhance an elegant affair or a casual evening with friends; the home is the new "Cheers." But, how to choose? The choice has everything to do with who you are. Find the cellar that fits you, your family, your lifestyle, and your home. And then you are ready to call an imaginative, creative friend and uncork a dusty bottle while you mull it over together. Just don't drink in the cellar during the bricklaying phase.