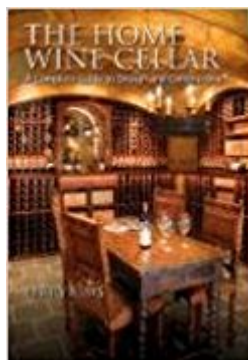


The book was found

# Home Wine Cellar



## Synopsis

Finally, the most informative, fully illustrated, step-by-step guide to designing and building your own home wine cellar! This beautifully photographed and illustrated full-color book covers all of the details of locating and preparing the right construction area. It includes the latest designs, as well as up-to-date racking and organization styles and techniques. Perhaps most important, this book addresses all the thorny challenges of temperature and humidity control—just where most home wine cellars fail. Having a wine cellar is a hot trend among homeowners, and contractors throughout the country are including them in new construction. This copiously illustrated “hammer and nails” book is by far the best DIY guide available.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

"Every bottle of wine—regardless of its vintage or variety—deserves proper storage and care," says Sims, a California carpenter specializing in wine cellar construction. This unique book promises to explain how to make that proper care happen, in seven illustrated chapters covering everything from wine racking solutions and the fundamentals of wine storage to planning and building a wine cellar and opening, straining and serving old bottles. There's something here for every wine lover, whether he or she is interested in using a self-contained storage unit (built-in or stand-alone) or intent on constructing a walk-in, below-grade wine cellar. Detailed sketches portray the components of a subterranean basement foundation, the steps involved in installing French

drains, and other aspects of construction; photographs show finished cellars. Although this is chiefly a book for DIY-ers, casual wine enthusiasts may also enjoy perusing its pages. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Perry Sims lives in El Dorado Hills, California.

We purchased our house last year that has a beautiful wine cellar built by Perry Sims. His attention to detail is unmatched. His book highlights many of the important aspects that go into building a wine cellar. Some reviews complain that there are specific details missing, I would agree, but not for the same reasons. Perry builds custom high end cellars from scratch. With every cellar he builds he has to take into account a multitude of different variables, such as location to exterior walls, power available, ambient temperatures, and most importantly the desires of the owner. When our cellar ac unit went belly up we called him out for help, he was extremely professional and honest. He gave us options of replacement ac units he could install but never once tried to persuade us with a specific brand. He stated he does not feel comfortable recommending one brand over another as he is not in the business of selling ac units but rather building custom wine cellars the home owner will enjoy for generations. We picked a unit and a few weeks later he performed a flawless install. He truly is a artist when it comes to wood working. His book is a great guide for gaining ideas and getting an understanding of what is involved in building a cellar. You can read 1000's of books but the bottom line is if your expecting to build one that compares to his workmanship your wasting your time.

Very informative book about the requirements needed to have an efficient and decorative wine cellar in your home. Has all the information needed for racks and equipment to keep the atmosphere perfect for storing wines. A must read for the home owner looking to create a cellar in an existing home or what to look for in building a cellar for a new home.

Not very informative and poor layout.

Covers everything I needed - mainly ideas for room and rack construction plus some decorative design concepts. Beautifully photographed and highly readable.

Good guide to build your own wine cellar.

The negative reviews here mystify me. This is a wonderfully illustrated book, that covers the details - such as the requirements for exterior walls - that other books miss.

I am planning to build a 2,000 bottle cellar myself and have found the published literature on the subject inadequate. After purchasing this book, I am no better off than I was prior to reading it. The book is so general that unless you do not know what wine is, it will tell you almost nothing you do not already know. It spends an inordinate amount of time discussing things like how to install and use a wine cooler. I own two wine coolers already and I assume almost everyone planning a wine cellar knows what a wine cooler is and how to turn one on. It spends a bunch of time on wine drinking, selection and pouring which is not what anyone buying this book is looking for. It also spends time discussing how to put shelves in a closet or under stairs, all of which is common sense. I need help on what type of vapor barrier to buy, how thick the studs should be, what is the best lighting to use, what coolers are best, what insulation will handle moisture the best, how to level a basement floor prior to installing tile, what types of wall finishes are best, what wood is best for racks, what stain is best, what thermometers and humidity sensors are best, most efficient and best looking floor plans, etc. This book offers no solutions to the real issues with building a cellar. I found more real information doing a few hours of web blog searches than I found in the same amount of time reading this book. I found the Richard Gold book on the subject much more informative even though it focuses on passive cellars and has no pretty color pictures.

Parts of the book were helpful and the photos were interesting. However, aside from aesthetics, the critical issues in building a cellar are the vapor barrier, insulation and cooling system. It would have been helpful to have more technical advice or at least technical advice that was easier to follow. For example, an explanation of why the vapor barrier must be on the outside everywhere (to keep condensation away from the insulation) would be more helpful than just a bald statement that it should be. The diagrams are clear as far as they go, but the explanation on how to put a vapor barrier up and insulate a ceiling is confusing in the absence of an explanation of the purpose of the vapor barrier. For example, if you have wires, pipes and ventilation ducts in your basement ceiling as most people do, what is the best approach? Should you drop the ceiling and then install a vapor barrier followed by insulation or is there something else you can do? Likewise, a discussion of the pros and cons of using a glass vs. solid door, whether to have electrical outlets inside and if so how many and why, whether to place the light switch inside the room or out, and a discussion of how to properly ventilate the cooling unit to optimize operational efficiency all would have been helpful.

Finally, since the author is in the business, I would assume that he uses particular brands of cooling units and has specific recommendations regarding size, makes and models--all of that would have been useful information. To be fair, I did a lot of research and nobody seems to be able to write clearly on this subject and there is a lot of conflicting information on various aspects of design and construction. Still, now that I've been through the construction process, it seems that someone with expertise should be able to write a sufficiently detailed publication to give a novice or a novice working with a general contractor who isn't a wine cellar pro an understanding of the critical elements of design and construction to help them anticipate the issues involved in building a cellar. The book falls short in that regard. I agree with the reviewer above that this book could have been half as long. As someone who was already inclined to build a cellar, I was already familiar enough with wine to know how to serve it. I wasn't looking for a contractor's advice on that subject. What I was looking for was detailed information on planning/design issues and construction methods. The information in this book that I found helpful on those topics was less than complete and was limited to about a dozen pages.

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