

Raise a Glass

This sleek and contemporary wine room is too beautiful to be hidden in the basement

BY ERIN ENGLISH PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMILY MINTON REDFIELD

WHERE IT BEGAN

When the owners of this home asked architects Sarah Brown of Semple Brown Design and Chris Davis (now a principal at BOSS Architecture in Denver) to design a wine room that would house as many as 2,000 bottles of reds and whites, it needed to be more than just functional. The space had to harmonize with the design of the new, contemporary Castle Pines home (read: not the style cues you'd expect for a wine room, which is typically steeped in Old World references).

Interior designer Richard Lee, who has a long history of working with the homeowners on projects in Denver and New York, was enlisted to help envision the space. "The wine room needed to look glamorous," he says.

PERFECT TOUCHES

Nestled in between public and private spaces in the house, the wine room is a sweet surprise rather than a showy display, Brown says. When the six-foot-wide sycamore pocket door is open, passersby catch a glimpse of the backlit wine bottles and unique red leather flooring—and are intrigued.

"It's fun to have those moments when you are discovering and exploring a house as a guest," Brown says.

In the 220-square-foot space, which Lee refers to as "a little jewel box," the main wine storage cabinet is suspended from the ceiling by cables, creating an airy feel. A hidden compressor keeps the reds perfectly cooled at 55 degrees, and a cuvenee system keeps the whites chilled separately. Proof that the space is more than just a cellar, a wraparound bench welcomes guests to linger for tastings.

Our Favorite Room



STYLE TIPS

■ Creating an attractive wine display hinges upon lighting and materials, Brown says. Here, lights installed behind frosted glass panels, which accent each of the mahogany shelves, create ambience. "To have a room in a residential property that features lighting like this is unique," Brown says.

■ To bring a "shot of color" to the room, Lee selected a sumptuous red leather tile floor by Edelman Leather. Each of the tiles is a slightly different shade of crimson, which brings movement and texture to the floor.

■ The horizontal arrangement of bottles is a look that Lee replicated from a hotel dining room the client admired. The labels are easy to read and the bottles are showcased in a more beautiful way than with traditional racks, he says. □