

Sleeping beauties

TRANSTHERM'S V40 SGESS UNDER-BENCH WINE STORAGE CABINET, \$1450 FROM MAJOR RETAILERS.

Those precious drops deserve a smart resting place.

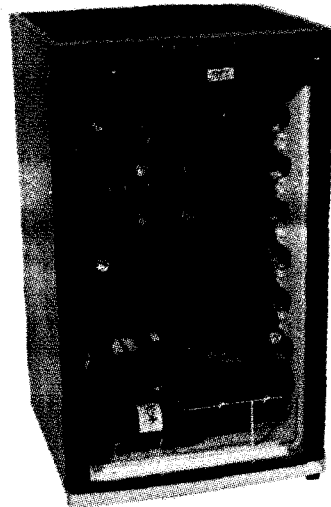
WHILE much of the wine bought in Australia is consumed shortly after purchase, taking advantage of bargains and building up a cellar requires a wine storage system that goes beyond a shelf on the bookcase or some vacant space in the kitchen cupboard. For one thing, you want to make sure wine is always stored horizontally (unless it has a screw top). This prevents the cork from drying out, which can oxidise the wine.

Choosing the right storage system will depend on your level of consumption, your preferred drop and the amount of space you can set aside in the home.

For beginners, there are several types of storage racks that allow you to start small and then add components as you work your way up to an impressive collection.

These include several types of modular components that can be placed on a shelf, on the floor or mounted on the wall.

Freestanding timber racks hold from six to 12 bottles, wall-mounted wire racks can take 60-plus bottles. And then there's the ingenious, space-saving Winetubes that can be fixed to a wall, keeping bottles horizontal by gripping their necks. Whichever racking system you choose, experts recommend that unless you have



34-BOTTLE STORAGE CABINET, \$549 FROM WINEKEEPER.

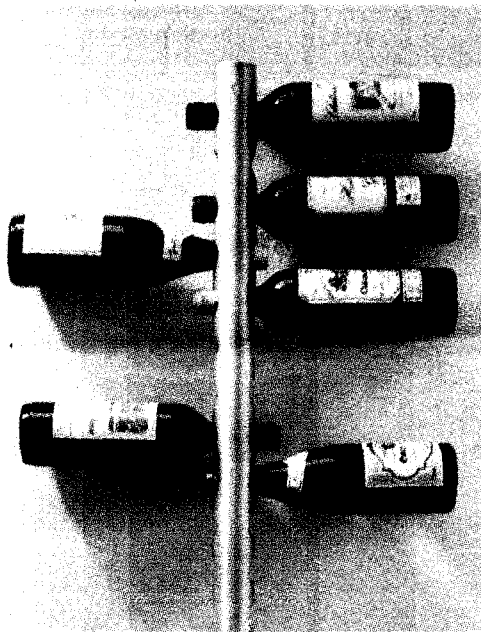
a climate-controlled, purpose-built cellar you place the units in an area of the home that is dark (i.e. no direct sunlight) and has a constant temperature of between 14C and 17C. Basements are ideal, but beware of damp. And forget about the garage, where the movement of the car in and out and heat from the engine can alter temperature.

Seasoned oenophiles who plan on cellaring several cases of wine can opt for the traditional racking systems, buying more components as the need arises.

For those who require serious control over temperature and light, there's a huge range of state-of-the-art refrigerated wine cabinets: from mini-systems suitable for popping under a home bar or kitchen bench to store a couple of weeks worth of wine, to massive units that can keep enough cold bubbly on hand to last all year.

If space is an issue or your collection is getting close to priceless, you might like to consider one of the companies, such as Wine Ark, that provide fully managed warehouse storage for anything from one case to several hundred.

CYNDI TEBBEL



THE ROSENDAHL WINETUBE HOLDS A NEAT DOZEN, \$175 FROM WINESAFE.

