

Feature by Tamsin Kingswell

host with the most

Whether you're a passionate wine expert or simply enjoy a glass or two with friends, ensure those favourite tipples are to hand with ease.

Increasingly so, we are a nation that likes our wine, and this growing appreciation of the grape has led to more expensive purchases of vintages that need to be cherished. Very few of us, however, are lucky enough to have a handy cellar which is why there has been an upsurge of interest in wine coolers. Dawn Stockoll, Brand & Marketing Manager at Electrolux Major Appliances, explains, "Consumers are more educated and discerning about the type of wine they buy and they want to be able to store it properly. While wine coolers are still a niche market, we expect demand to continue growing."



left Cool and sophisticated, the AEG-Electrolux In-Column-Santo W988204i is made from stainless steel with an aluminium front trim, has a temperature divider which can be positioned wherever required, LED lighting and electronic controls. Measuring H88.6cm by W59.4cm by D56.4cm, it houses 36 bottles and costs £1200. **Tel: 0870 535 0350. www.aeg-electrolux.co.uk**

above Smeg's stainless steel SCV72X has wooden racks and operates on two temperatures, one for cooling, the other for optimum maturing. With UV light-repelling glass doors and a precise control to allow careful monitoring of the storage conditions, it houses 72 bottles, measures H169cm by W60cm by D60cm and is priced from around £1000. **Tel: 0870 990 9907. www.smeguk.com**

making space

Your next step will be to establish how much room you have for your wine store. It's always worth exploring the option of building a cellar in your basement as you may be pleasantly surprised by the cost and effort needed. If this isn't possible, there's an impressive range of units, from double-fronted to slimline versions, that can fit any area. Not just for the kitchen either, they are a welcome addition to games rooms and dens, or, if space is tight, can happily live in garages. However, Paul Thompson, Managing Director at Baumatic UK, sensibly suggests placing a wine cooler near the dining area, "If you can simply reach across to pull out another perfectly chilled bottle of Chablis without leaving your chair, this has to be the height of luxury," he says.

"The latest must-have appliance, particularly in today's luxury developments, wine coolers add an exclusive air and make a smart statement about your lifestyle."

above right Essentially an extension built downward, cellars are the ideal choice for those determined to have a substantial space for a collection. One of two main designs, the Spiral Cellar is available in four different depths, from 2m to 3m deep and can store up to 1600 bottles. The other is the Mini Cellar which comes in depths of either 1.35m or 1.6m, can store up to 770 bottles and has a simple wooden staircase leading from a trap door. Expect to pay from around £7000, at Spiral Cellars. Tel: 0845 241 2768. www.spiralcellars.com

right Baumatic's slender BW28 has the capacity to store 28 wine bottles, is finished with an aluminium-look exterior, a tempered glass door, an interior light and chrome shelves, as well as the option of a wooden rack kit. It also features a cooling system that works without a compressor for quiet operation and no vibration and boasts an auto defrost function. Measuring H73cm by W16cm by D54cm, it's priced from around £269. Tel: 0118 933 6900. www.baumatic.com

