

Why proper storage is important for your wine and what constitutes proper storage?

BHQuah

Many of us have progressed into collecting and investing in wine. As a result of recent increase in demand, wine prices have shot through the roof. Buying wine is almost like buying a Ferrari 288 GTO. With only 39 produced between 1962-1964, these cars are becoming rare and a good condition GTO can fetch in excess of £15million! Unlike a car where technological advancement produces better handling and a more efficient automobile, a particular vintage of wine is hard to re-create. And as more is consumed in this world, less of the same vintage is available in the future.

Increasingly, wine storage becomes an important element of collecting wine. With property price increases seen in recent years, building a wine storage facility becomes an expensive affair especially when taking the cost of space into account, and to some who live in condominiums, building a cellar is not an option. 3rd party storage of wine, contrary to many beliefs, is not all that expensive. Storage is similar to regular maintenances and change of tyres for your cars. A proper storage in Singapore can cost between \$3-\$5 per bottle per year.

The important elements in storage of wine are temperature, light and humidity. In a tropical country, the high temperature can turn wine into vinegar. It is important to keep the temperature below 17°C. Although there are varying views, experts believe that the right temperature to store wine should range between 10-14°C. This will also allow the wine to mature properly.

Wine matures well in a dark area with no direct sunlight. Although it is impossible to avoid lighting completely, this should be kept to the minimum. Humidity should ideally range between 65-80%, which should be sufficient to keep the cork moist and not overly dry.

If you are thinking of investing into wine either for consumption or investment purposes, please consider proper storage. With proper storage of your wine, you will be rewarded later. A banker friend of mine once asked me to invest in Chateau Lafite 1982 back in 2002 when it was less than SGD700 per bottle. Today, the same bottle can fetch more than SGD10,000 per bottle in some places!
