

# Why should someone use a 3<sup>rd</sup> party storage facility?

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Being an accountant, I have always looked at decisions such as this from the perspective of cost and practicality (flexibility). Let us first take a look at the options available for proper storage of wine: building a wine cellar, buying wine fridges and 3rd party storage.

If money is no object, I would advise one to build his/her own cellar. There is nothing better than having a wine cellar that is accessible at all times within a hop and step away – a facility that you can also show your friends at any time.

If you are just a mere mortal like me, then one has to take into account the cost associated with building a wine cellar especially when space is at a premium. Building a wine cellar is not cheap especially when taking into account the cost of space. Even if one can afford the cellar, there is also the running cost to consider. In addition, having a cellar does not give one the flexibility e.g. removing a cellar when you are moving house is not that easy and no buyer really pays a premium for the cellar. With a 3rd party storage facility, one can give notice to terminate their services. Neither is there maintenance to worry about. Furthermore, with a cost between S\$3-5 per bottle per year, it is relatively inexpensive. Just think of it as sacrificing a packet of chicken rice a year for the benefits of possibly having the value of the wine appreciate and at the same time keeping a healthy diet.

For some of us who live in condominiums, building a cellar is not even an option.

That leaves most of us with just the option of wine fridges and 3rd party storage.

Everyone should have a wine fridge at home as it provides easy access to wine for both personal consumption and entertainment. Unless one entertains people by the bus-loads regularly, I would not advise one to buy more than one fridge. There is, of course fridges of varying sizes. It is more cost effective to have excess wines stored outside with a 3rd party storage facility and have the home wine fridge stocked up regularly.

With 3rd party storage facility, one can order as much of his/her favourite wine as possible which ensures a reliable supply of good wine. Take me for instance – I recently tasted a fantastic Italian Pinot Noir. To my disappointment, I could no longer find it in any of the local shops. So if you happen to taste a wonderful wine, buy them in cases and have them stored. It is cheaper than having to visit the bottle-shop every time you need a bottle.

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