



# Safe Stashes

## How to select a wine storage company

BY ELIN McCOY

▶ CASES OF WINE WERE TAKING OVER William Ingram’s Manhattan apartment. “I have a tendency to buy more than I have space for,” the investor says, chuckling.

Now, the majority of his valuable 1,200-bottle collection rests quietly across the Hudson River at Domaine Wine Storage in New Jersey. “It’s hassle-free,” Ingram says. “I get a couple of cases delivered every month for dinner parties.”

At least 25 professional wine storage spaces have opened in and around large cities, including Hong Kong, London and New York, in the past few years. The best will coddle your pricey Burgundies,

### RECOMMENDED LOCATIONS

**HONG KONG**  
**HONG KONG WINE VAULT**  
winevault.com.hk

**LONDON**  
**OCTAVIAN VAULTS**  
octavianvaults.co.uk

**NEW YORK**  
**DOMAINE WINE STORAGE**  
domainewinestorage.com

**MANHATTAN WINE CO.**  
mwcwine.com

**THE WINE CELLARAGE**  
winecellarage.com

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DRINKS

A private cellar with custom wine racks at Hong Kong Wine Vault

protect against disaster scenarios, give you advice and even invite you to tasting dinners. Here’s what to look for in a wine storage company.

### PERFECT CONDITIONS

Heat and fluctuating temperatures age wines prematurely. Look for a steady 55 degrees Fahrenheit (13 degrees Celsius), with 65 to 75 percent humidity, in a dark, vibration-free space, as well as a backup generator in case of power outage and temperature-controlled delivery vans. Some facilities are naturally cool: The vast Octavian Vaults’ Corsham Cellars outside London, once a limestone mine, is 100 feet (30 meters) underground.

### SECURITY SYSTEMS

Think of these spaces as banks for liquid gold. At Domaine Wine Storage, surveillance cameras, motion detectors and temperature alarms are monitored 24/7. Hong Kong Wine Vault, which offers individual walk-in wine cellars, screens visitors with a facial-recognition scanner. Your wines should be grouped together and labeled with your name so it’s harder for a case to just disappear.

### INDIVIDUAL INSURANCE POLICIES

Most storage spots offer individual

replacement cost policies that cover your losses from breakage or theft, including during transit. Update the value of your bottles annually.

### CUSTOMER SERVICE

Jonathan Salky, who works in the institutional clients group at Citigroup Inc., uses Manhattan Wine Co.’s own cellar-management software to keep an inventory of his 30-case Bordeaux stash there. The Wine Cellarage in the Bronx recently hosted clients at a dinner that featured wines from Bordeaux’s Chateau Palmer. Worldwide pickups, auction advice and complete inventories of your collection are just some of what’s on offer.

### THE BOTTOM LINE

Basic prices run from \$1.50 to \$3 a case per month; individual vaults cost \$500 per year and up. Handling, delivery and other services are extra. Still, that’s a lot less than the cost of a custom cellar, and you don’t have to stack 40-pound (18-kilogram) cases yourself.

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COURTESY OF HONG KONG WINE VAULT