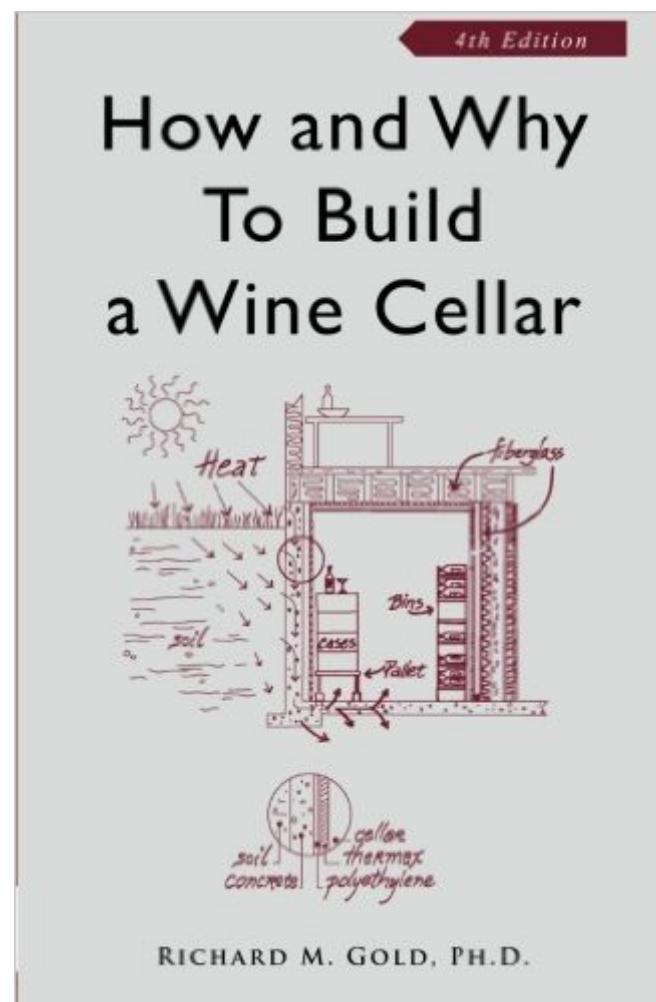


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# How And Why To Build A Wine Cellar, Fourth Edition



## **Synopsis**

This popular classic, which is based on the author's personal experiences of building a wine cellar in his home and collecting wines for fun and investment, is now completely updated for the modern wine collector. All of the essential construction specifications to maintain the ideal temperature and humidity conditions for long-term storage of wine are provided for the home craftsman or professional contractor. Insulation, refrigeration, and passive systems are detailed and the construction of racks and storage bins is also explained with helpful illustrations. A practical guide to selecting, recording, tracking, and enjoying your wines at their peak performance is included.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

If you are planning to build or are building a wine cellar you need this book, it is the source. Dr. Gold draws on his experiences and research in building his own cellar and offers clear explanations as to the "why's" and concise specifications for the "how's". I bought edition 3 for myself and my contractor to guide the construction of my passive cellar that has maintained a steady 54 degrees thru its first winter and 60 degrees thru the summer. Picked up edition 4 to see what's new - updates on newest construction materials and new information on sourcing wines and wine info thru the internet.

Richard Gold's book is the consummate cellar dweller's guide to designing and building a wine cellar for the home. Through detailed examinations of wall sections, insulation, cooling units,

moisture and temperature control and other considerations, Gold evaluates a variety of techniques and technologies applying analysis and personal experience to highlight the most promising strategies. His generally noninterventionist approach to cellar design is a refreshing alternative to the propositions of the cooling unit manufacturers, reinforcing the importance of proper design and superinsulation strategies - which hold the promise of improved reliability as well as reduced dependence upon your local energy company. Needs some additional editing, but definitely a recommended read for anyone contemplating construction of a new home cellar.

We were doing a construction project, so what the heck, lets add a wine cellar too. After doing a bunch of research it became clear that Gold's book was the best choice. It was recommended by many reviewers. I read the book thoroughly and incorporated a cellar into our construction plan. Reading the chapter on the vapor barrier and insulation are critical if you are going to pull off a passive wine cellar. Moreover, I wouldn't even try to go passive unless you are building mostly below ground. It is fairly obvious that the cooling systems that are available for non-passive wine cellars are problematic and extremely unreliable, so passive is best. In our situation we had a mostly below ground basement level. We bumped up the insulation on the inside and added some outside as well since the building was already trenched. We also added a vapor barrier. The room so far stays very cool even though we aren't quite done. There is also a whole chapter about how to construct the perfect door. It turns out that it is almost impossible to buy an adequately insulated door, but it is not that hard to build one yourself if you are handy enough or can hire a contractor. If you are looking for a prestige wine cellar to show off and impress people with, be warned that Gold is pretty negative about these, and won't help you much there, this is about storing and protecting wine, and Gold doesn't care too much about impressing people. He does offer some great advice about how to build your own effective shelving system and how and where to buy wine that are quite insightful. If you are building a wine cellar, get this book, and maybe one for your contractor.

If you are like me and building a wine cellar, this has to be in your "Read Before Building" section. It has technical information on construction and engineering notes on everything from electrical to insulation. Most other books on wine cellar construction turn out to be idea books filled with lovely photos but no technical details. This book fills in the gap nicely.

Dr. Gold's book was the best reference over a decade ago when I was looking for information on how to build a wine storage area in my basement. There was, and still is no other source of

information that is as complete and current. His instructions are intelligent, exhaustive, and useful.

This is a really excellent book. Gold's practical advice based on his own actual projects and it really works. I used an earlier edition to build my cellar and it works superbly. There are some real surprises... Gold emphasizes keeping uniform high humidity, saying this is more important than temperature fluctuations. But, if humidity is too high, the labels mould. He has a solution: a dry well dug into the floor insures that your humidity won't get too high in the spring. It's simple and it works. I liked that he conducted experiments (tasting a bottle left out in the sun for a few hours, one high temperature excursion will permanently affect the wine), and he has practical advice for sharing fine wines with friends (e.g., if you don't take care, they'll just pour and drink your 1982 Pichon Lalande, go on talking, and never notice it). This book has helped me more with wines than any other. I highly recommend it.

This book has been extremely helpful. To be honest, I was a bit disappointed when I received it as it wasn't covered in color pictures of steps along the way, as other books include. However, in browsing other books they fail to address the details and precautions based on experience that the author's instructions provide. The author does a great job of defining the steps, yet allowing the reader to develop his own designs to suit his needs. Books with pictures would tend to sway the reader to try to build what they see. Thanks again for developing this guide.

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