

## The Card



*Crown Wine Cellars*

18 DEEP WATER BAY DRIVE  
SHOUSON HILL, HONG KONG  
[www.crownwinecellars.com](http://www.crownwinecellars.com)

TEL: 2580 6287

### **Cellars Market**

Being a serious wine lover in Hong Kong isn't always easy—an 80% wine tax doesn't help—but there's consolation to be found in an unexpected place: a World War II ammunition bunker. Crown Wine Cellars, a private members' club and wine storage facility, has converted an old bunker into a biosphere for bottles, with temperature, humidity and light exposure monitored to the umpteenth degree. Special lighting works with the bottle tint to ensure that your favorite wine doesn't get old before its time. A computerized catalog system lets uptight oenophiles keep a close eye on their collections; each bottle has a barcode, and members can log on to a Web site to see what wines they have in storage. Membership levels vary. Hard-core collectors can opt for long-term storage, which starts at HK\$1.50 (20 U.S. cents) a bottle a month. Other memberships start at HK\$688 a month and include clubhouse privileges—there is a handsome conservatory and underground seating area—and storage for 96 bottles. Members can call up their own bottles from storage to be imbibed in the facilities, but the club also offers an extensive wine list that starts at HK\$75 for a young Hill & Dale sauvignon blanc from South Africa and goes up to HK\$5,000 for a 1990 Henschke Hill of Grace, a premier shiraz from Australia.

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—Blythe Yee