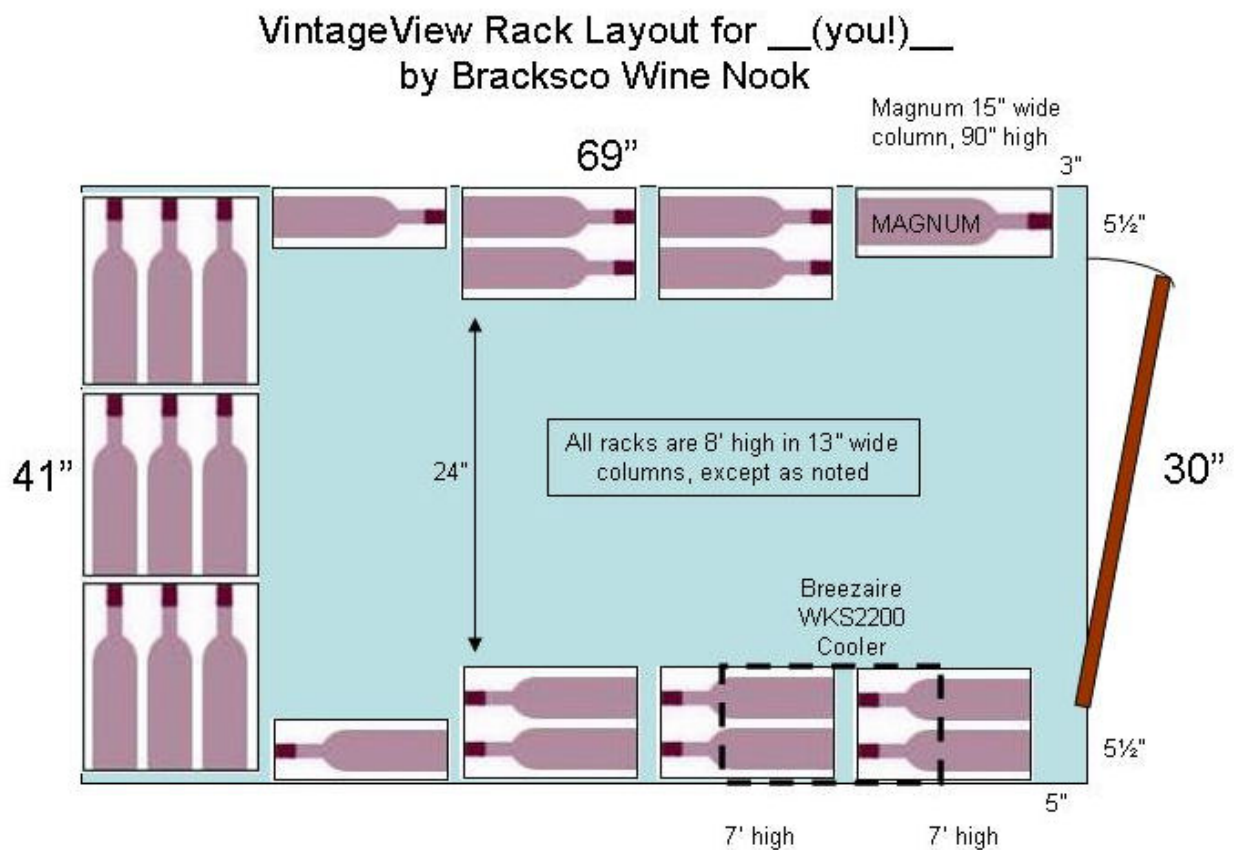


Considerations for Building a Wine Room

by Fred Brack, owner of Bracksco Wine Nook

If you've got cases of wine stored here and there around your house and want to buy more, you may want to consider building a wine room. Here are some considerations to evaluate such a project.

While cooling the room isn't essential, an even temperature and lack of light is. A closet without an air vent may do OK, while a basement location would probably be better. If you decide to cool the room, then a vapor barrier and insulation are essential. The larger your collection and the longer you wish to store some of your wine, the more important cooling is. You can actually store over 500 bottles of wine in a cooled 3-1/2' x 6' room! Example:



You should start by evaluating your location options relative to your projected needs (5 cases or 500 cases), then assess what modifications might be necessary. If you have a closet, for example, you may only need shelving or racking; but if you want to cool the room, the walls and ceiling need to be opened for a vapor barrier and insulation, you have to decide how to handle the floor, a new door is probably necessary, and electricity is required at the right location for a cooling unit. Are you up to the task, or do you need to hire someone to build it or assist you?

Here's an overview of what's involved if you want a cooled wine room, keeping in mind that you should **PLAN EVERYTHING** very carefully up front!

1. Deconstruct a room, if you are starting with an existing one, or put up the studs for a new room
2. Install an insulated door (or provide for insulating the current one)
3. Frame an opening for a cooler
4. Install/reroute wiring for the cooler and the room lighting
5. Install a vapor barrier (unless insulating with closed cell foam)
6. Install insulation, including the ceiling and under the floor (if it is not concrete)
7. Finish the walls, floor, and ceiling
8. Install the cooler and the wine racks

It is essential to understand the requirements for a vapor barrier and its proper installation and vary your insulation depending on wall location (inside vs. outside, for example). Your cooler should vent into air conditioned space, not outside, in most cases, or be of the so-called split-system variety, with a compressor outside the house and an air handler in the wine room.

If you have the skills, the cost to build a wine room on your own isn't excessive, and you will enjoy the results for years to come. You can find complete instructions and considerations for building a wine room at www.bracksco.com/buildwr.

Fred Brack was the proprietor of the online store **Bracksco Wine Nook**, www.bracksco.com. For 12 years he sold VintageView Wine Racks and Breezair wine room coolers, helping both residential and commercial customers with their wine racking needs. Fred closed his website at the end of 2014 to try, once again, to retire! You may still be able to reach him at 919-847-1201.

