

TRAVEL + LEISURE

GOLF

MARCH/APRIL 2007

SERENE SPAS
Best of the
Southwest

WINE + GOLF
From Napa to
New Zealand

Reds, Whites and Greens

The connoisseur's guide to
the best of wine and golf

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Photographed by Andrea Wyner

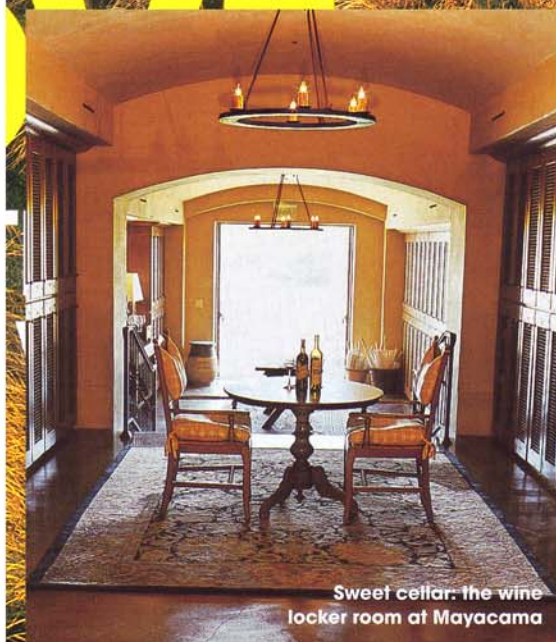
Private Clubs: Which Has the Best Cellar?

At many of the best clubs, whiskey and beer, long the post-round drinks of choice, have taken a back seat to wine. Climate-controlled cellars full of hard-to-find labels are the new sine qua non. "Golfers tend to be very choosy when it comes to finer things like wine, particularly at private facilities," says Paul Golden, senior

vice president of ClubCorp, which recently launched a wine program that gives members at participating clubs access to limited-production wines. "Even after a horrible day on the course, things don't look so bad after a few choice corks are popped." Here are the top six après-fairway cellars for members and lucky guests only.

MAYACAMA GOLF CLUB, Santa Rosa California

Augusta may have the premier cellar, but no private club provides as thorough a wine experience as Mayacama. Each new member is assigned not just a golf locker but also a wine locker, located in an underground grotto containing many vintages rarely seen outside the grounds. Every year, the club's thirty-one vintner members--including Jess Jackson of Kendall-Jackson, Bill Harlan Estates and cult winemaker Helen Turley--each provide a barrel of their premier vintage. In season, the winemakers host intimate tastings every two weeks, which could mean sipping from the barrel with Kerry Murphy of DuMOL or dinner for twelve at Joseph Phelps winery with Bill Phelps himself. The all-vintner tasting in April lets members and guests sample head-spinning rarities that your local wine snob would kill to try.



Sweet cellar: the wine
locker room at Mayacama

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UNTIL MAY 1

The tenth at the Old Course, Ballybunion, Ireland