

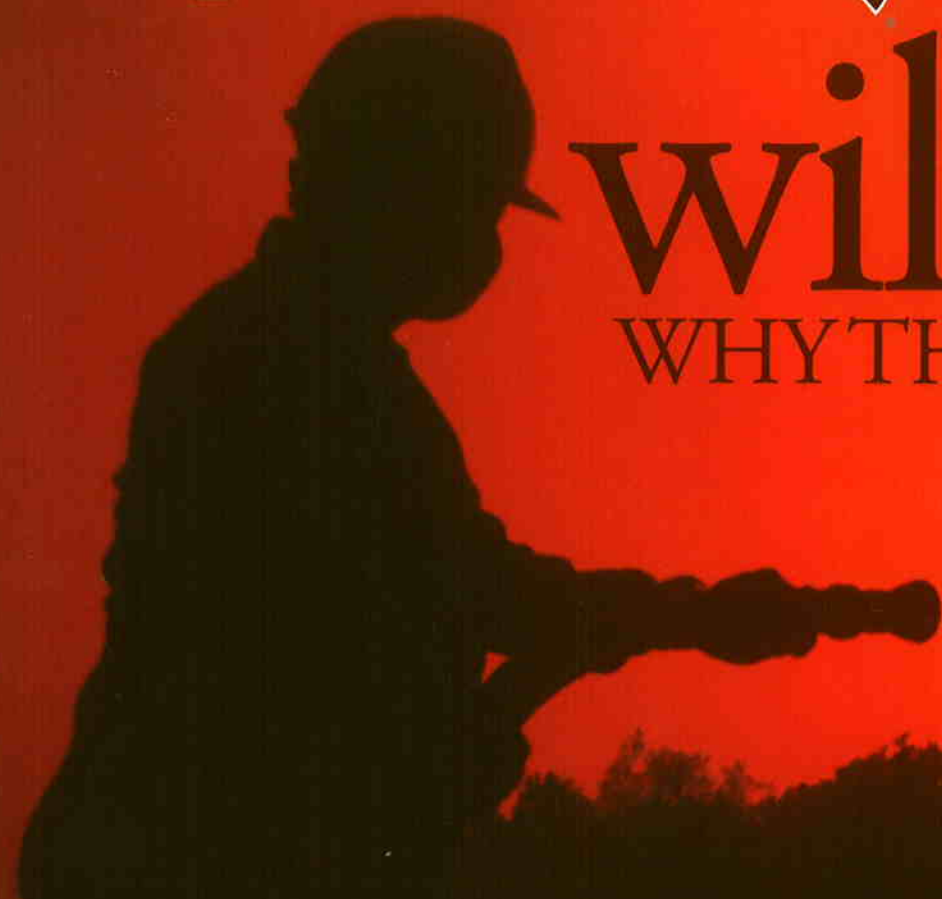
A STELLAR ASPEN CELLAR | SPECIAL RADIANT YOU SECTION | ARE WE RECESSION-PROOF?

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SUMMER 2008

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BREAKING BOUNDARIES

AN ASPEN HOME BRINGS THE OUTSIDE IN

ARCHITECTS AFAR

THREE MOUNTAIN TOWN TALENTS GO GLOBAL

STELLAR CELLAR

A WINE ROOM FOR THE AGES



THE ART OF LAURA THORNE AND JOHN VAN ALSTINE



Oenophile's Delight

A love of the grape, art and architecture come together for a one-of-a-kind wine cellar in Aspen.

By Lindsay Yaw | Photos by Aspen Architectural Photography

W O W FACTOR

Most wine cellars share a basic set of characteristics. They're dark and clammy and smell ripely of the raw earth that surrounds the bottles. The wine is stowed for practical reasons like keeping it cool, for storing large quantities bought in bulk or simply to be ready for impromptu get-togethers. But there is one wine cellar, located on Red Mountain in Aspen, that, despite some vague constituents of the norms, is nothing close to average.

According to architect Jeffrey Berkus, the cellar was designed to integrate into the overall landscape of the house and to be representative of the passion behind the creation of the wine. "If you can design a space to enhance people's personal awareness, then

you've gone a long way to facilitating their ability to taste the true nature of the wine," Berkus says.

To design this cellar, Berkus and wife Rebecca, of River Terrace Designs, separated the subterranean area into four separate temperature-, vibration- and light-controlled spaces. As you walk through what the owner calls "the passageway," there are two spaces that steal your attention. On each side of the passageway, there is a wine room—one for wines from Italy and California, another to house champagne, white wines and some burgundy.

At the end of the hallway is an original Andy Goldsworthy cracked-mud wall art installation called "Clay Wall with River." It reaches up through the first floor, creat-

ing not only an open space for indirect natural light to descend into the passageway but an opportunity, says the owner, "to experience the sense of excitement and mystery in this part of the house which reflects the mystery of experiencing the wine."

The experience of the cellar, however, all leads to the inspired Showcase Room. Shaped as a square-sided "U" and encased in floor-to-ceiling glass walls, it is a veritable residence of wine, full of the world's

Left: "Clay Wall with River," an original Andy Goldsworthy cracked-mud wall art installation, reflects the marriage of earth and art required for superlative winemaking. Below: Glass walls bound the "Showcase Room," allowing guests to feel surrounded by the wines they are tasting without being subjected to variations in temperature.

