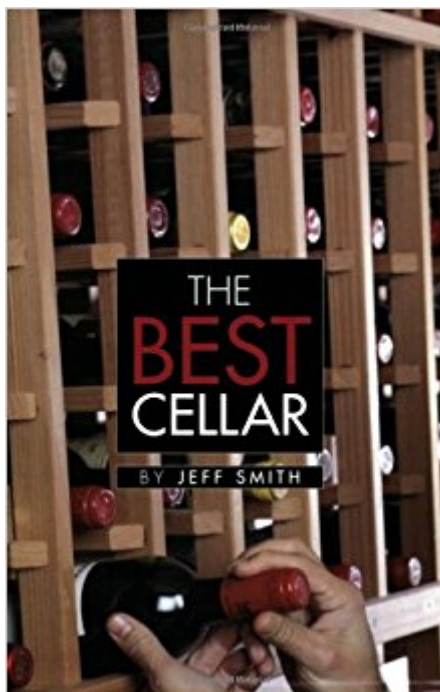


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# The Best Cellar



## Synopsis

If it happens in a wine cellar, Jeff Smith has done it. As owner-operator of Carte du Vin, the country's leading wine cellar management company, Smith knows his wine. In *The Best Cellar*, he lays out step-by-step advice on how to buy and sell, how to maintain your collection, and how to prepare a Carte du Vin wine cellar inventory. A must-have book for wine lovers, his adventures in the wine trade make for an insightful and riotously funny read.

## Book Information

Paperback: 200 pages

Publisher: Taylor Trade Publishing (April 4, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1566252423

ISBN-13: 978-1566252423

Product Dimensions: 6.6 x 0.4 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.8 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,657,736 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in [Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Wine & Spirits > Cellars](#) #101 in [Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Wine & Spirits > Collecting](#) #211 in [Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Beverages & Wine > Wine & Spirits > Buying Guides](#)

## Customer Reviews

"(Smith) demystifies much of the pomp and pedantry of the wine trade." -- *The New York Times Style Magazine*"...a well-written, and fun-to-read guide for anyone with an interest in wine...a MUST-READ." -- Ann Colgin, *Colgin Cellars*"...everything you need to know about starting a wine cellar, from 100 bottles to 100,000 bottles." -- Don Zacharia, *Zachys Wine and Liquor, Inc.*"Smith tells all. He keeps no secrets; a wake-up call for wine buffs who buy wine for future consumption." -- Larry Lipson in *Los Angeles Daily News*, May 16, 2006"*The Best Cellar*" demystifies much of the pomp and pedantry of the wine trade." -- S.S. Fair,"(Smith) cheerfully outlines how to put together a cellar in some detail...and writes entertainingly about picking the right vintage. -- *DECANTER Magazine*, September 2006A lighthearted, easy-to-read guide...by affable author Jeff Smith. -- Richard Carleton Hacker, *Quarterly Review of Wines*, Winter 2006/7

Before finding his calling as a wine impresario, Jeff Smith spent many years as a marketing and

talent executive in the entertainment business. In 2002 he decided to channel his lifelong passion for wine into a career by starting Carte du Vin, which has quickly become the country's leading wine cellar management company. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Smith is also the author of the very funny "Life Sentence: The Guy's Survival Guide to Getting Engaged and Married" (Warner Books, 1999) under the name J.D. Smith. He lives in Beverly Hills with his wife Amy and baby daughter Lila.

It's not bad. A big chunk of the book are just stories that Jeff Smith has about his clients. Not a ton of useful information but it's not bad.

If you are looking for information on how to build or maintain a wine cellar, this is not the book for you. On the other hand, if you are looking for a book on how to be a wine snob... written by THE wine snob, this may be your book! The part on building a spreadsheet has some merit.. but some of the following quotes from the book will give you an idea of the contents..."The only bottles I ever get are either great bottles meant to impress or those brought by wine-challenged people who have absolutely no idea: B. V. Coastal. .... I put them in the closet marked "cooking wine" (page 7)He calls the wine column of the Wall Street Journal by Gaiter and Brecher "two nincompoops" (page 31). I happen to like their advice.He is a strong advocate for hiring a company to organize your wine cellar for you... and he owns just such a company.And his comments that no wine under \$50 a bottle seems worthy of a wine cellar... I only know what I like, but I have had some very good wines that were \$12 a bottle... on page 86 his interpretation of the wine point scale states that anything 86 or under, it would be better to drink a beer. Mr Smith seems like he knows wine... to the point he thumbs his nose at anything that doesn't meet his snobbish expectations. Perhaps his book should be titled "How to be a Wine Snob in 152 pages"...

The author assumes we all have the ability to acquire a 4,000 bottle collection of wine, and at times looks down upon those of us who enjoy wine, but don't have the proper credentials to qualify as wine snobs. This book needs more practical support for those people who want to collect a variety of good value wines, and store them over time. This book does not deliver on that point.

I bought this book based on recommendation in Wine Spectator, hoping to learn more as i may wish to build wine cellar. Well, I learned little if anything from this book, except that the writer has a very high opinion of himself. My advice: look elsewhere.

Now, I get it. My wines were a mess, but *The Best Cellar* is a huge help in getting my cellar organized. It is also enjoyable to read.

Witty and humorous and packed with real-world examples that stay in your memory.

In my opinion this book is really more about wine collecting than it is wine cellars. There is some decent info about building and keeping a wine cellar but the most of the pertinent information on that subject in this book could have ended on chapter 3 possibly 4 if you're interested in cataloging your wine. The bulk of this book is made up the author's personal antidotes that might give some insight into wine cellaring but can be difficult to trudge through while he uses terms like "grocery store wine", blasts the wine critic in the *Wall Street Journal* for recommending cheap wine (gasp!), or tells the story of how his dad first started cellaring wine using the closet in the maids room in the back of his house "leaving just enough space for the poor woman to hang a single with dress uniform on a single wire hanger". If you need a 152 page book that has 70 pages on the core components of building a wine cellar shouted down to you from a very high horse... this is the book for you.

Carte du Vin proprietor Jeff Smith spins highly entertaining tales and offers excellent practical advice largely based on his time in other people's cellars. Depending on your wine budget, Smith's experiences will offer either vicarious thrills or buying suggestions. Those with small cellars will want to organize them using Smith's system. Those with large cellars will want to hire this man.

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Tony Aspler's *Cellar Book: How to Design, Build, Stock and Manage Your Wine Cellar Wherever You Live*  
*How To Build Your Own Wine Cellar*  
Construction Ideas For Building A Home Wine Cellar  
*The Wine Press And The Cellar: A Manual For The Winemaker And The Cellar Man* (1883)  
*The wine press and the cellar : a manual for the wine-maker and the cellar-man*  
*The Academie Du Vin Wine Cellar Book: A Practical Guide to Creating and Maintaining Your Own Cellar*  
*The Wine Press and the Cellar: A Manual for the Wine-Maker and the Cellar-Man (Classic Reprint)*  
*The Best Cellar*  
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