



Wine Accessories

BY JULIE CLAY
PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN BLASE

A savory selection of accessories can complete the experience of a bottle of fine wine. Whether you seek to outfit your wine collection or put the finishing touches on a party, these items are sure to make a statement.



TAG, YOU'RE IT

Wine tags from **Island Style** can be the ultimate conversation-starter. Designed by local artists called the Niteowls, aka Island Style employees Pilar Baker and Marilu Simmons, these flat-metal bottle tags are made in various colors, individually printed with the buyer's choice of wording, and hang on colorfully beaded chains.

Tags for glasses can be found here as well. Sets of six ByJacobs tags are available in an assortment of themes, including sea creatures, Japanese symbols with English translations, and wine types. The tags come with an attractive purple bag for storage. A bit more lively is a set of ceramic tags with party-related inscriptions such as "Player," "Intoxicated," and "Hunk."

Now that you have your tags, how about a snappy-looking set of glasses on which to clip them? Island Style offers several sets of six glasses, hand painted in bright colors by Enid. Each set features a design with each glass a different color (perhaps to help

distinguish between glasses without tags). If a goblet is more your style, hand-painted ceramic goblets by Susan Painter are available in sea and beach themes. Rounding out the goblet display are matching serving dishes, salt and pepper shakers, napkin holders and ice buckets.

Island Style also offers an ample selection of bottle stoppers. Fashioned from pewter, they come in various shapes, including a fish, frog, airplane, or alligator.

Wine racks are crafted by seasonal Sanibel resident Sarah Hutchinson. Her company, Sticks, makes standout pieces such as a wooden, hand-painted three-bottle holder shaped like a house with a sloping roof featuring a sun and clouds.

Contact Island Style manager Rose Yannia for more information on ordering these and other handmade wine accessories. Or visit two other locations in Key West or Kissimmee. *Island Style*, 2075 Periwinkle Way Unit 16, Sanibel, 239/472-6657; *Chadwick's Square*, Unit 210, Captiva, 239/472-4343.



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BUNDLES OF BAGS

What a way to make an entrance to the party! Tote your wine bottles safely and stylishly in one of several bags at **Austin's Wine Cellar**. Designed with flowers, grape bunches, or in simple black, these wine bags are insulated and are sized for one or two bottles.

Larger bags feature a separate holder for an ice pack between the bottles.

Austin's offers distinctive wine racks and individual bottle holders, as well. Particularly striking is a black holder created by Innispree Inc. of Miami. Made of dark, natural wood in the shape of a fish, the holder has a convenient handle. Another elegant choice at Austin's is a black metal rack featuring dual candleholders, which help set an intimate mood. As much a conversation piece as a wine rack, a single bottle holder features a butler on bended knee to support the bottle that rests on his back. A wine rack sized for several bottles is made of wood adorned with metal, autumn-colored leaves and bunches of grapes. And when a simple bottle just won't do for serving your wine, choose from a fine selection of carafes in various shapes and sizes.

Here's an idea for that cork collection you've accumulated: Recycle them into trivets and bulletin boards with kits available at Austin's. If that's too much work, find ready-made trivets with humorous messages, including "Forgive me, for I have zinned" and "Wine drinkers make grape lovers."

Austin's Wine Cellar not only has an extensive selection of wines, it also offers a fine collection of "vintage" books ranging from *White Wine for Dummies*, a pocket encyclopedia about wine, *The Gift of Wine*, to a guide to home wine making. Especially intriguing is the *Wine Dossier*, an attractive way to track and rate your wine tastes. This hard-bound book by Mako Publishing contains ivory pages and burgundy ink with several pages for the enthusiast to itemize inventory, keep track of wine labels and brands, jot personal notes, and list local wine retailers. *Austin's Wine Cellar, 12377 South Cleveland Ave., Ft. Myers, 239/275-7200, www.austinswinecellar.com*



A SPIRITED FIND

Among assorted alcoholic beverages at **Sanibel Spirits** you'll discover delightfully unique wine accessories such as pewter bottle stoppers. Available in turtle, manatee, lighthouse, pelican, and other shapes, all have a convenient ring and chain to hang on a bottle.

Want to dress up a bottle? Take home a Wine Butler. Essentially a butler's outfit from the waist up, these charming cloth pieces fit on standard-sized wine bottles, adding personality to your spirits.

Also available is a selection of wineglasses colorfully painted in beach scenes complete with flamingos and palm trees.

Add a sense of fun to your wineglasses with decorative charms from "Wineopoly." These sets for stemware come in gold-beaded rings, with themed charms, including "Beach'n Set" and "Party Time." *Sanibel Spirits, Jerry's Shopping Center, 1700 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, 239/472-8668*

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