

BANISH BOTTLE BOREDOM

MIXING IT UP IN THE CELLAR WILL KEEP YOU OUT OF THE WINE RUT.

Do you find yourself reaching for the same few bottles when you visit your local wine store? You may be in a wine rut. Like the best cocktail parties, where a mix of loyal friends and new acquaintances keeps the conversation lively and interesting, stocking your rack with a variety of unfamiliar wines in addition to tried and true favorites will prevent bottle boredom from setting in. To keep your tongue sharp:

Add yourself to email lists for local wine shops, especially the ones you don't typically frequent. After all, it's difficult to expand your wine repertoire if you're not really sure what's out there.

Stick with the same grape, but from a

different part of the world. Drink a lot of New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc? Try some Sancerre from France's Loire Valley. Have a preference for Australian Shiraz? Pick up a bottle of Syrah from California or Washington.

Host a wine swap. This spin-off of the wine club lets you and your friends pawn off some of your reliable sips, while giving you the chance to discover a new favorite.

Go for the obscure. When all else fails, browse the store shelves and pick a wine with a name you've never heard before. Agiorgitiko, Rkatsiteli and Chasselas may be good places to start.

—KELLY MAGYARICS

