

BLAZING THE BOURBON TRAIL | THE DIRT ON NATURAL WINE | DIY APPLE CIDER

# imbibe

LIQUID CULTURE

## 100 BEST PLACES TO DRINK BEER IN AMERICA



ISSUE 15 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2008  
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\$4.95 US / CAN

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# Cold as Ice

Wine chillers help you stay cool when company shows up

**WINE THAT'S TOO WARM** tends to taste bloated and cloying, with an unpleasant alcohol burn. Even reds can usually stand a few minutes of cooling down to get to proper cellar (not room) temperature. But you don't always have time to stick a bottle in the fridge or freezer before guests arrive, and those buckets of ice water—while effective—can create a dripping mess. Chillers save the party. These tools rapidly transform beverages from just-off-the-shelf to ready-to-serve, generally through the use of insulation and/or pre-frozen ice packs. The best ones keep your bottle at that same temperature, so the last glass tastes as good as the first. (You probably don't want to try that trick with reds, however, as that can make them too cold.) And it helps if they're easy to use and look good on the table. We tested six chillers to find out which ones will leave harried hosts as composed and cool as the wine they're pouring. —Kelly Magyarics

## OUR PICK: VACUVIN RAPID ICE WINE COOLER ELEGANT

\$29.99, [smarthome.com](http://smarthome.com)

**PROS:** Frozen insert can be used by itself; sleek design looks attractive on a table or bar; effortless option to chill a bottle or maintain a wine's temperature.

**CONS:** Tight fit on some bottles; doesn't accommodate sparkling-wine bottles.



### COOPER COOLER RAPID BEVERAGE CHILLER

\$79.99, [bestbuy.com](http://bestbuy.com)

**PROS:** Rapid solution for effectively chilling a bottle of wine; also fits cans and beer bottles; capable of cooling multiple beverages.

**CONS:** Requires a large amount of counter space; uses a significant amount of ice and water; optional spin function may destroy bottle label; splashing at beginning of cycle.



### STEELTEK DOUBLE WALL WINE CHILLER

\$16.99, [target.com](http://target.com)

**PROS:** Clean design looks attractive on the bar or table; easy to use and store; dishwasher-safe; accommodates sparkling wine bottles.

**CONS:** Doesn't keep wine as cold as other chillers; useful only to maintain temperature of already chilled wine.

### METROKANE RABBIT WINE AND BEVERAGE CHILLER

\$12.00, [justwineracks.com](http://justwineracks.com)

**PROS:** Durable neoprene construction; accommodates different-sized bottles (including beer and sparkling wine), as well as cans; portable, slim design.

**CONS:** Small surface area means wine ends up less chilled than with similar models.



### RAVI INSTANT WINE CHILLER

\$49.99, [winestuff.com](http://winestuff.com)

**PROS:** Quick solution for bringing room-temperature reds to cellar or slightly chilled temperature; handy to re-charge warming bottles of white wine.

**CONS:** Bulky design and slow pouring feature is awkward for entertaining; device renders bottle top-heavy; not capable of fully chilling room-temperature whites; subsequent glasses aren't as well chilled as the first one.



### VACUVIN RAPID ICE INSTANT WINE CHILLER

\$9.95, [wineenthusiast.com](http://wineenthusiast.com)

**PROS:** No-fuss chilling option for casual get-togethers; portable, slim design; large surface area insures sufficient cooling; easily wipes clean.

**CONS:** Tight fit on some bottles; doesn't accommodate sparkling wines (though the company makes a similar product sized for larger bottles); looks a bit tacky on the table.