

Wine Cave

...continued from page D1



Architect Rick Kattenburg in his Orinda office.

Photo Chris Lavin

Kattenburg says he loves working with Rey, who was involved at every step of the project.

They both watched as the 20-foot hole became a magnificent 1,000-square-foot barrel storage area, with a huge dining table in the center for entertaining, tasting and mixing. Now it's not only a center for tasting, but for socializing.

"It's incredible," Kattenburg says.

But the road to fruition was long. The first step was, where to put a cave? Kattenburg gets out a piece of paper.

"We built the house originally with a fire truck turnout above the house," he said, his pencil outlining a driveway in his architect's hand. "We didn't want guests having to look down on cars." Face it, would you want to gaze out into the valley with a glass of wine in your hand, or onto a parking lot?

They decided to dig the cave under the turnout – again thinking of unobstructed views, should equipment be in use. But at about 10 feet, the soil turned to rock. Heavier equipment like jackhammers were ordered. The hole got deeper.

...continued on page D6



Owner David Rey and architect Rick Kattenburg decided on adding an entertainment area to the "wine cave," so tastings and dinners could be had right alongside barrels of aging wine. The chandelier in the center is made from a wine barrel.

Photos courtesy Rick Kattenburg



Reliez Valley Vineyards has more than one area for tasting and mixing, including this subterranean room that also serves as a tasting area for micro-brewed beer.