



The Wine Cabinet / Rico's

The Wine Cabinet

The wine cabinet that is the centerpiece of Rico's Restaurant dining room, in the North Hills, was actually built to house a priceless collection of Courvoisier. Eight bottles were designed by Art Deco artist Erté, and it's rare to see the collection in its entirety.

"I started buying them because the bottles were pretty," says Rico's manager David Lorenzini (the son of Rico, himself). "Then, I was traveling in Rome and saw that one of my bottles was valued at \$4,500."

At auction, the bottles actually go for \$10,000 each.

The high-end cognac shares the wine cabinet with unique bottles, collected from owner Rico's travels. "My father collects luxury spirits from Russia,

Italy, Mexico..." David says. "They're not really for drinking — though I think he's taken a shot of the tequila."

And some of the cabinet's bottles are signed — like the one from Failla Winery in St. Helena, Calif. The Faillas are Pittsburgh natives, who migrated to Napa Valley and earned recognitions as high as "Winemaker[s] of the Year" (*San Francisco Chronicle* 2008). Friends of both families gather at the restaurant to toast with the smooth vino.

"Mostly, the wine cabinet is a good conversation piece," Lorenzini says. "It catches your eye, and people talk about the bottles they have tried. It makes for great stories." **Rico's Restaurant, 1 Rico Ln. Ricos.biz.**

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