

Philippe MAZIERES

Architecte D.P.L.G
Immeuble Ariane – Lot n° 131
1, Rue Pétrus Rubens
33150 CENON

TEL : **335 57 54 13 30**

FAX : 335 57 54 13 39

E-MAIL / Ph.mazieres@wanadoo.fr

Remarks Concerning Wine Cellar Construction and Preferred Job

As the ever-present danger of Trichloroanisol (TCA) currently hovers over wine cellars, a trend of returning to the use of natural resources has begun to emerge.

A unique approach is required for the construction of each cellar, or cave, and the result is the fruit of a multidisciplinary concept that has evolved through the collaboration of the wine grower, the oenological adviser and the architect. The architect is not only responsible for the physical style and construction of the building, but he is also the professional best qualified to find and implement the optimal technical solutions which can provide the best possible environment for the intended interior use (wine making, ageing and stocking) of the building.

Wine is a natural product, rooted deeply in the earth. It is especially vital during the growing season to find and provide the ideal conditions and circumstances with which the vines may interact with the earth while still maintaining a perfect hygiene for the plants.

The materials that I have used and advise for use are all derivatives of hydraulic lime—the only natural material that can breathe in full in harmony with the air and the earth:

- hydraulic lime concrete for floors (ANAPA-Russia) –
- gravel for beaten earth floors, (Châteaux LUSSAC-ST EMILION, YQUEM, LAGAFFELIERE, CVNE-LA RIOJA
- pointed brick walls with lime mortars and hydraulic lime plasters on both façade finishes: brushed finishes, steel trowel finishes, (Châteaux LUSSAC-ST EMILION) or a finishing coat of lime wash (Châteaux LUSSAC-ST EMILION, LAGAFFELIERE, PRIEURE LICHINE in the Médoc region of Bordeaux)

As far as wood structure frameworks are concerned with the risks of TCA, I use only wood that is self-protected, and needs no chemical treatment, (oak, poplar, chestnut), and that must be cut according to the moon (CVNE-Rioja).

A treatment with lime wash can be done in order to avoid any fungal growth development, coincidentally producing an interesting aesthetic aspect.

Finally, I am not in favor of using air conditioning for cellars and caves except perhaps for use as a one-time emergency solution in case of extreme temperature variations. Good ventilation and good insulation are preferable, even more so if the floor has been made from hydraulic lime concrete.

Furthermore, I am also looking into certain purifying solutions for cellars through the use of purifying micro-organisms. This might be worth pursuing further so that contaminating elements may be avoided.