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experience by writing reviews and up-loading photos - anytime, anywhere. The best seller annual WOM guide printed dining guide book, now in its sixth edition, is available in leading bookshops throughout the city. It is Hong Kong's only dining guide based

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Lafite at \$230,000 a Bottle Means Boom for Hong Kong Wine Vaults

By Frederik Balfour - Jul 21, 2011 12:01 AM GMT+0800

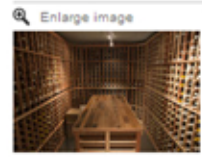
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Fergus Fung swipes his card across a sensor and waits as his face is scanned by a computer to match his profile. A steel door opens and the Hong Kong entrepreneur enters a vault that holds his treasure of Bordeaux and Burgundy.

This is the Hong Kong Wine Vault, one of more than 15 repositories that have been set up in the past three years in the Chinese city as it overtook London and New York as the world's biggest auction market for top wine labels like Chateau Lafite, Domaine Romanée-Conti and Krug. The temperature is a constant 13 Celsius and humidity is 75 percent, protected by 4 inches of insulation on the walls, ceiling and floors.

"The facial recognition thing is a bit gimmicky," said 35-year-old Fung, founder of the WOM guide to Hong Kong restaurants. "But with any wine cellar, security is a key issue."



Bottles of wine are stored in the Hong Kong Wine Vault in Hong Kong, China. Photographer: Jerome Favre/Bloomberg

After Hong Kong axed wine duties in February 2008, imports surged to

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