



Wine comes in at the mouth and love in at the eye, that's all we shall now for truth before we fall now for the before we grow old and die I lift the glass to my mouth, I look at you, and I sigh.

William Butler Years

"My wine bar is now a trendy bank"

With the stock market plummeting, there's increasingly fevered interest in finding alternative places to park money. And if the concept of spare cash bemuses you, the advantages of not paying tax are unlikely to be so alien.

The Banca Privada d'Andorra has introduced a Wine Fund, where medium and long-term investments are made in famous French and Spanish wines (think d'Yquem and Lafite Rothschild). Since launch, the fund has shown a very healthy 20 per cent growth; a satisfying figure to anyone currently watching their equity shrink like cashmere in a tumble dryer. Blunter satisfaction comes twice a year when investors are invited to a tasting at the bank in tax-free Andorra. The vaults have been converted by architect Stefano Colli and equipped with furniture from Alvar Aalto and fittings by Arne Jacobsen. It's just the place to tip back a glass or two from the more interesting bottles on your portfolio.

Minimum investment: 30,000euros; www.bpa.ad

Portfolio of swiftly-inflating-in-value wines is must-have accessory for spring 2003

Out of the red Investors in wine at the BPA have seen the fund grow by 20% in just a few months



Modernist furniture dons Cappellini continue their worldwide expansion with the opening of a new Vienna branch. Set on the Rudolfsplatz in the heart of the city, the shop is an amalgam of huge windows, smooth flooring, partial walls and colour co-ordinated displays. You may struggle to make your home look as good, but still - there's no harm in trying. Rudolfsplatz 13-A, 1010 Vienna; 00 43 1535 2106

Possessions: better than faith

Biolove RL01 bicycle Designed by Ross Lovegrove, this bike is dripping with top of the range components (Hope disk brakes and Mavic rims, for example) but it's the bamboo and aluminium frame that's the main attraction. www.biomega.dk. One Off ashtray Portable, with a handy bracket to rest your smoke upon, it's second only to a Cuban sex worker's thighs. £70 from www.oneoffcollection.com. Arco light by Flos Before Achille Castiglione shuffled off this mortal drawing board he signed each of the 3,000 Arco lights that have been made with black marble bases (rather than the usual white Carrara) to celebrate the iconic lamp's 40th birthday. £1,390 from McInnes Cook; 020 7258 0600 www.flos.net. Messe de Minuit by Etro The dandy cult label's latest fragrance is Messe de Minuit, which is immediately evocative - even if you're not entirely sure what of. And then it hits you: it smells exactly (exactly!) like old Italian churches. £52 for 100ml from Les Senteurs;

