

REAL ESTATE | HOMES

Sure, You’ve Got a Wine Cellar. What About a Whiskey Lounge, or a Tequila-Tasting Room?

Luxury homeowners are serving up multiple spaces where they can store and enjoy their alcohol collections

By Candace Taylor



Dan and Shannon Stratton at their home in Punta Mita, Mexico. PHOTOS: EVGENIA KOSTIAEVA FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

One reason for tequila’s growing popularity is its visually appealing bottles, which come in a variety of shapes and colors. That was part of the allure for Dan and Shannon Stratton, who built a tequila-tasting room in their home in Punta Mita, Mexico. “That is one of my favorite parts about tequila – I love the bottles,” said Ms. Stratton. “They’re literally pieces of art.”

The Strattons, who run a financial services company based in South Carolina, have a variety of bottles on

display in the tequila room, where a long wooden table is used for tastings, playing games and meals. With a groin-vaulted brick ceiling for an Old Mexico aesthetic, the space has elaborately patterned woodwork hand-carved by local artisans, they said. Stained-glass windows in the doors were also made locally. One section of the room, behind glass, is climate controlled and used to store wine.

For larger groups of people, tequila can also be sampled at the home’s custom-made, 12-foot-long wooden bar. Ms. Stratton said the couple, along with

their adult children, frequently entertain friends there.

The Strattons said they wanted to create the tequila room as an homage to Mexico, but tequila isn’t actually their favorite drink: for Ms. Stratton that is Veuve Clicquot, and for Mr. Stratton it is Johnnie Walker Black. In a nod to these beverages, they created his and hers powder rooms: one with a Veuve theme and one with the Johnnie Walker-influenced aesthetic. The Strattons purchased the oceanfront land and built the home which was completed in early 2021.

