

# · FRONT RUNNERS ·



*Wield a distinctive corkscrew, or cool Champagne in a dedicated cellar. . . .*

**W**ITHOUT DOUBT, the warthog (*Phacochoerus africanus*) is ugly. Its tusks, which typically reach about 7 inches, do nothing to enhance its appearance, but they can be quite useful when the animal is facing a combatant. In settings more refined than the creature's native African savanna, the tusks provide a prized material for knife handles, egg holders, and even necklaces. (Note: The warthog is not endangered.) The tusks also make fine handles for corkscrews,

including the one pictured here, designed by **Gershon Jewelers** ([www.gershonjewelers.com](http://www.gershonjewelers.com)) of Greenvale, N.Y. Gershon's version features an end cap in sterling silver or 14-karat gold; the silver-capped version sells for \$225, the gold for about \$450. . . . You do not need a corkscrew for Champagne, but temperature control is certainly in order. Temperature fluctuations can wreak havoc on Champagne: As the liquid expands and contracts, the cork can loosen enough to expose it to oxygen,

causing the bubbles to dissipate. Most refrigerated wine cellars accommodate only standard-size wine bottles, but the stainless steel **Marvel Champagne Cellar** ([www.lifeluxurymarvel.com](http://www.lifeluxurymarvel.com)) is designed specifically for Champagne bottles. The appliance, which measures about 34 inches tall and 15 inches wide, will maintain a steady temperature of 55 degrees Fahrenheit, the ideal storage temperature for Champagne. The \$2,100 unit can hold as many as 18 bottles on its six glide-out racks. . . .

*A corkscrew with a handle made of warthog tusk, from Gershon Jewelers.*