

# ELLEDECOR

*Joie de Vivre!*

**A CELEBRATION OF FRENCH STYLE**

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## THE TOP 10 BAR CABINETS

DESIGNERS MARY McDONALD AND ROBERT STILIN RAISE A TOAST TO AN ENTERTAINING ESSENTIAL THAT'S ALWAYS WELCOME AT COCKTAIL PARTIES

A well-stocked bar cabinet—with top-shelf spirits and sparkling glassware—is the hallmark of a serious host. But what of the cabinet itself? Whether it's long and low-slung like a credenza, tall and broad like an armoire, or a small, free-standing cellar-ette, a well-chosen drinks cabinet is a marriage of beautiful form and functionality. Built-in features may include bottle holders, racks for glasses, and adjustable shelves. “If the cabinet doesn't offer a work surface on top, a pull-out shelf for mixing drinks is helpful,” says Robert Stilin, an interior designer in New York City. “It's also nice to have drawers to corral your napkins, bottle openers, and votives.” The living room is the obvious place for a bar cabinet, but it's not the only option. “The beauty of a cabinet is that it's discreet, like a nice piece of furniture,” says Los Angeles designer Mary McDonald. Unlike the showier bar cart, a cabinet keeps its temptations under wraps.

### 1 SERPENT BAR BY BRETT BELDOCK FOR CB2



**Mary McDonald:** This is a cabinet that makes a statement in a living room but doesn't have too much to say, if you know what I mean. It's chic and versatile, and although it's one of the less-expensive cabinets I've seen, it certainly doesn't look cheap.

**Robert Stilin:** The shape is clean and linear, but the alligator print on the inlaid brass gives it a subtle Tom Ford kind of glamour. You don't have to use it as a bar: With an antique mirror or a pair of vintage lamps on it, it becomes a nice console for a bedroom or entry hall. 44" w. x 15.5" d. x 37" h., \$999. [cb2.com](http://cb2.com)



### 2 BOHLEND CABINET BY CURREY & COMPANY

**RS:** It might be my favorite. The mix of materials—inlaid wood, brass—gives this handsome cabinet a warm glow. It would also make a great stand-up vanity for a woman's bedroom. It has a mirror inside that's perfect for makeup.

**MM:** Wonderful craftsmanship—it looks good open or closed. The pretty blue felt that lines the drawers comes as a little surprise. 54" w. x 21" d. x 72" h., \$10,990. [curreycodealers.com](http://curreycodealers.com)

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY NINA SORIANO FOR BERNSTEIN & ANDRIULLI; FOR DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES

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### 3 CIRCLE SMALL CABINET BY ARMANI/CASA

**MM:** This one is small but sexy, and the way the curved doors open in opposite directions is supercool. Since it has two separate storage areas, you could devote one side to liquor and the other side to glasses and other objects.

**RS:** You'd never guess this little revolving end table was a bar cabinet. I love the luxurious mix of materials—the beautiful crosshatched-lacquer finish, the warm metal hardware and the leather-covered shelves inside. I wouldn't say it's a full bar, but it's certainly a glamorous place to keep spirits and tumblers. 20" dia. x 25.5" h., \$14,580. armanicasa.com

### 4 CORRIDOR BAR BY BDI

**RS:** Extremely versatile. With the glass top, stemware rack, and all that storage, it can function as a hardworking bar. Because the back is finished, you could also float it in a room when you're throwing a party. Or put it under a great piece of art and use it as a console in your entryway.

**MM:** The venting on the front lends a slight Asian accent. Yet you could do a room with French modern pieces, and it would blend in. I like that it also comes in white oak—a completely different, beachy look. 36" w. x 18.5" d. x 41" h., \$2,199. bdiusa.com



### 5 PISCES BAR BY RESOURCE FURNITURE

**RS:** The oak, metal, and spare lines give this piece from Portugal the sensual feel of a minimalist sculpture. When you open the top flaps, it transforms into a tiny bar with a storage area and work surfaces—and look at the lovely inlaid fish!

**MM:** I agree, it does look like a piece of contemporary art, with an elegant silhouette. It's small, though—a bar for an intimate group of two or three guests at most. Still, it will get the conversation started. 16" w. x 20" d. x 46.5" h., \$2,250. resourcefurniture.com



### 6 DOWNING BAR CABINET BY WEST ELM

**MM:** You can pack a lot into this cabinet! It's extremely well equipped for the job, with a rack for hanging stemware, drawers for knickknacks, a wine rack, and adjustable shelves to fit bottles of all sizes. Simple and fresh—ideal for a young person's city apartment.

**RS:** Yes, the lines are nice and clean, the use of space is well-thought-out, and white is versatile. But it's the price that's unbeatable.

29" w. x 18" d. x 59" h., \$1,199. westelm.com

The opinions featured are those of ELLEDECOR's guest experts and do not necessarily represent those of the editors. All measurements and prices are approximate.