



How might a 15th century convent be redesigned into a modern winery?

I.
DESIGNING FOR
PRESERVATION

Consider the historic landscapes and local traditions, surrounding the site. Design solutions must be non-intrusive to the original structure.

II.
EMBRACE SENSITIVE
MATERIALS

Preserve existing materiality and specify reclaimed or LEED certified materials to limit raw material use during construction.

III.
ADOPT ENERGY
EFFICIENCY

implement energy efficient equipment in the industrial workspace and utilize earth sheltering when designating the wine cellars.

SITE
Couvent Saint François
20112 Sainte-Lucie-de-Tallano, Corsica, FR.
41.6970° N, 9.0634° E



COUVENT SAINT FRANÇOIS

The convent complex was founded in 1492 by Lord Rinuccio della Rocca, originally consisting of a fort and a castle on a hilltop overlooking the village of Sainte-Lucie-de-Tallano. On 13 October 1493, the conventual church was consecrated by the archbishop of Ajaccio. In the 16th and 17th centuries, the convent was a place of Franciscan influence.

The last stone of the original convent complex was laid in 1631. Today, only the southwest wing, constituted by the church, and half of the southeast wing remain. The historic southeast wing comprises, on the courtyard side, a ridged vaulted gallery opened by arches falling on square piers and a large room consisting of two barrel vaults on the ground floor. There have been two additions to the castle-turned-convent since its completion: a steeple built in the baroque style and a contemporary extension to the medieval southeast wing.

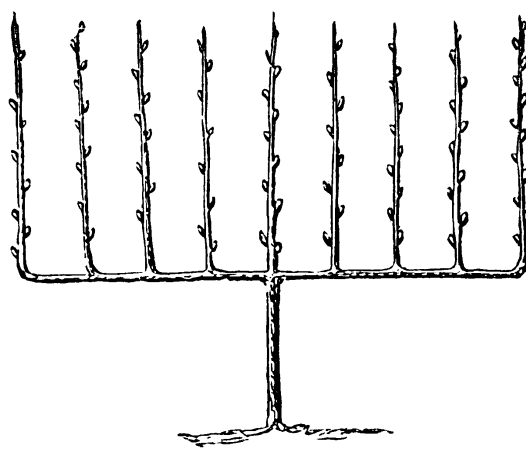


OVERVIEW OF SITE

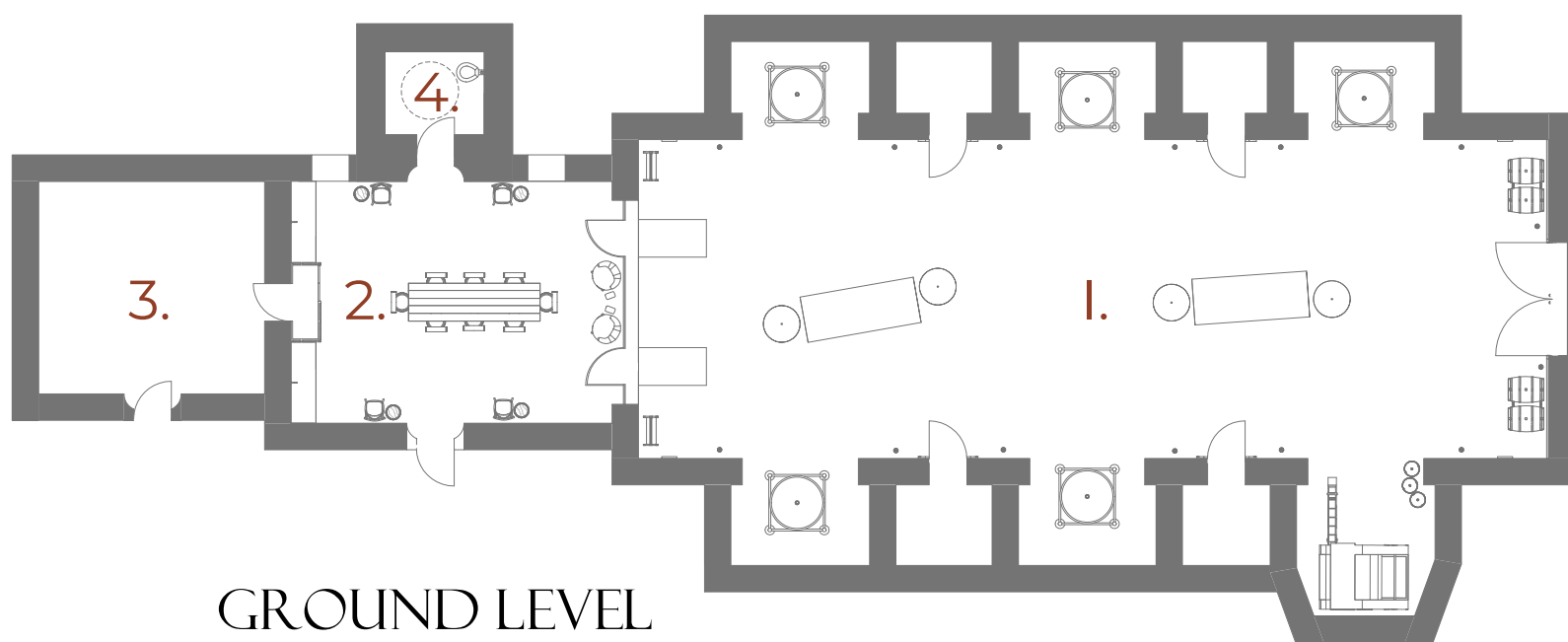
SOUTHWEST WING
CHAPEL

CONCEPT

espalier n.
/es'palyæ/
an ancient technique of pruning a fruit tree and training its new growth to grow flat against a supportive lattice or framework



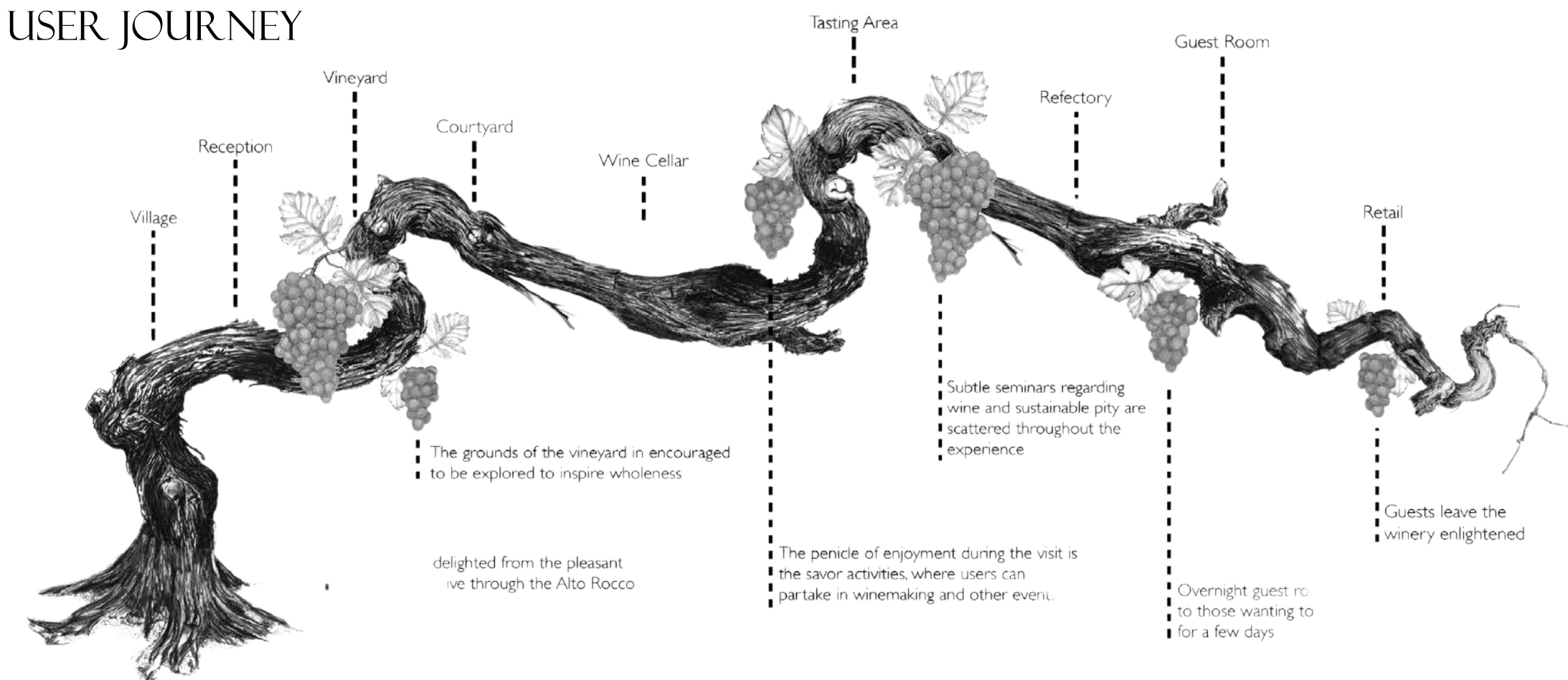
By taking inspiration from the annual cycle of pruning grapevines to maintain a healthy crop and the biology of new organic growth, the inclusion of natural facades mimicked through materiality and spaces that appear to bloom from narrow passageways will create a space that benefits both winemakers and visitors of the winery.



GROUND LEVEL

1. Winery
2. Premier Tasting Room
3. Bottled Wine Reserve
4. Restroom

USER JOURNEY



the winery happens to be the largest space on the site. It occupies the nave of the chapel, with fermentation tanks nestled in each vestry. As an industrial workspace, the winery requires flexibility for its workers' movement; therefore, all furniture is mobile.



PERSPECTIVE DOODLE - WINERY



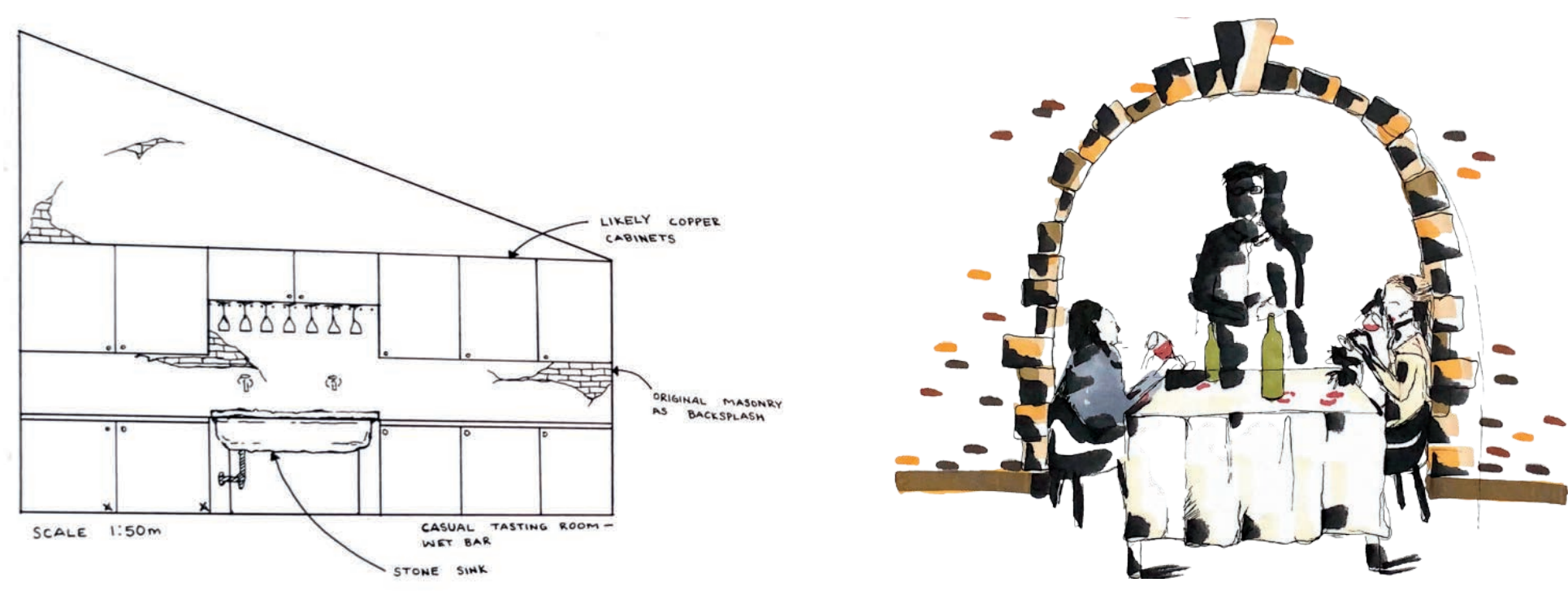
Winery



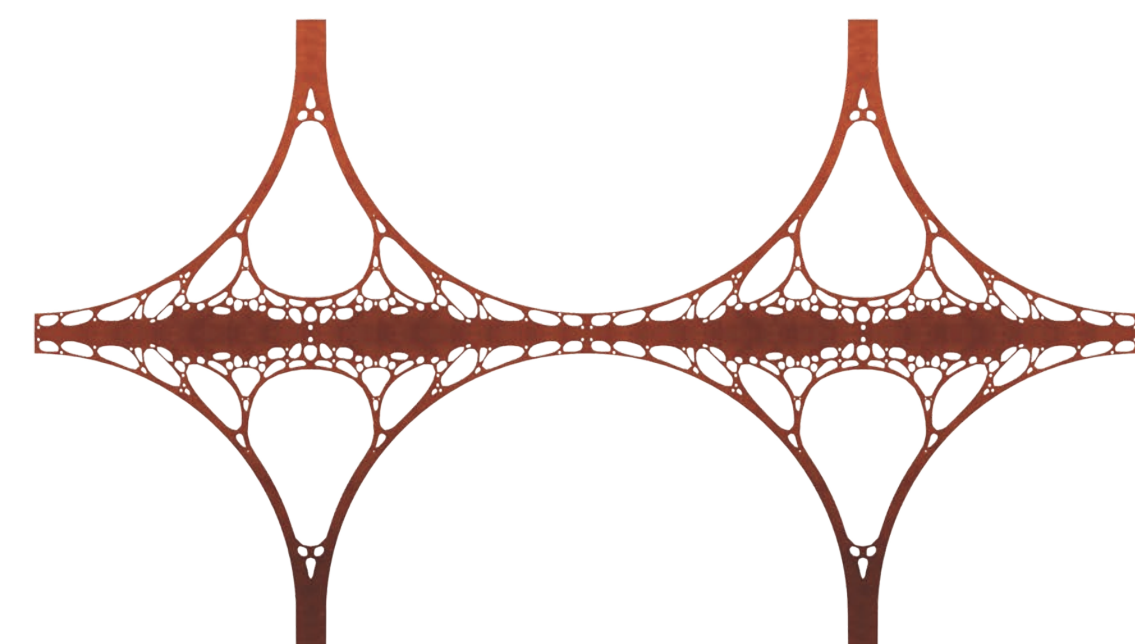
PREMIER TASTING ROOM



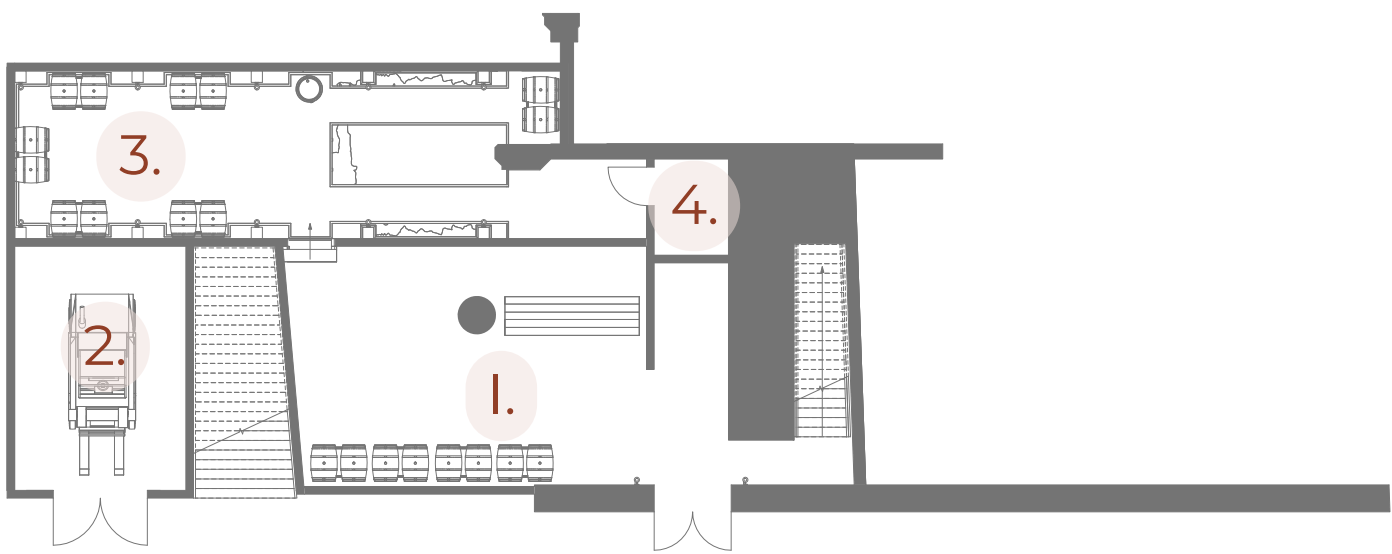
MATERIALITY DETAIL



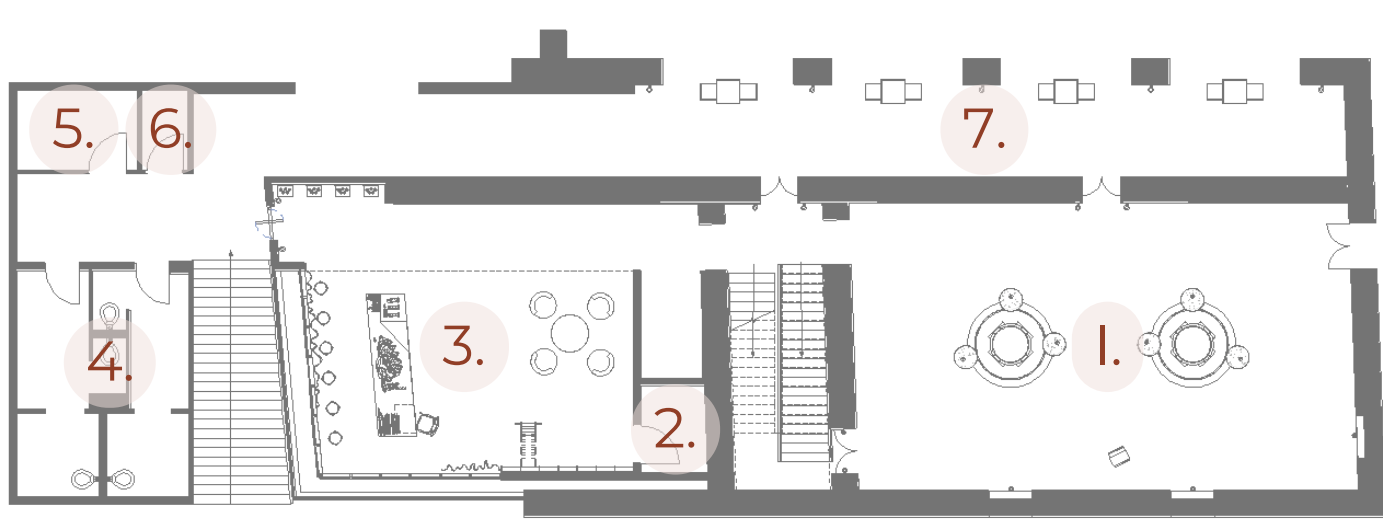
The premier tasting room is located in the apse of the chapel, which allows users to experience the grandeur of the winery as they walk to their destination.



SOUTHEAST WING
CONVENT

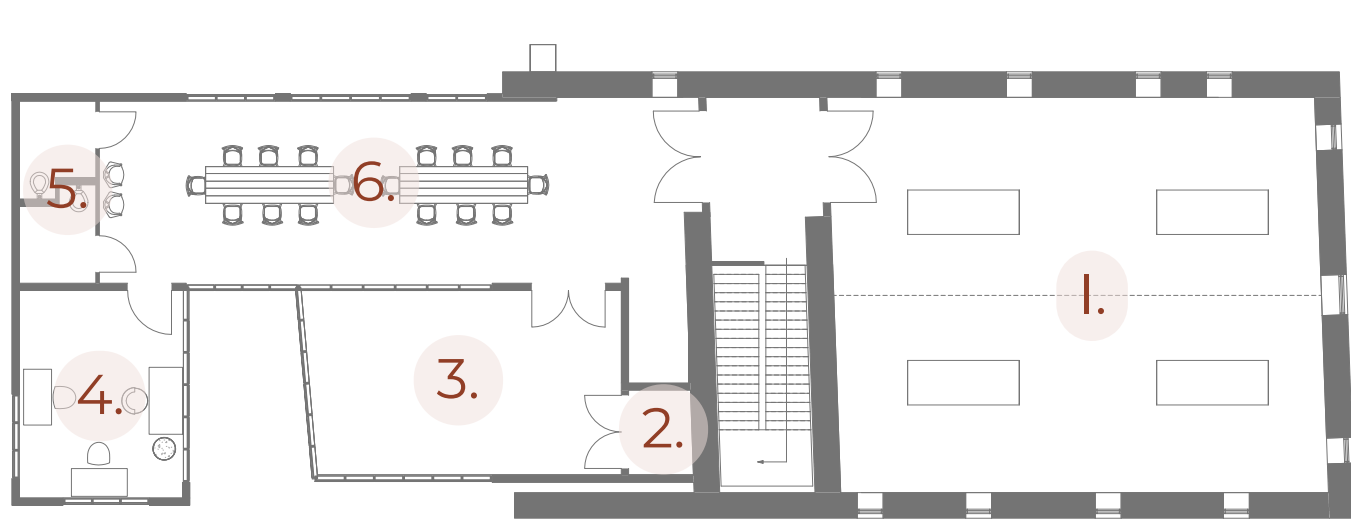


LOWER GROUND LEVEL
1. Bottling Workspace
2. Harvesting Tools Storage
3. Aging Cellar
4. Mechanical Closet



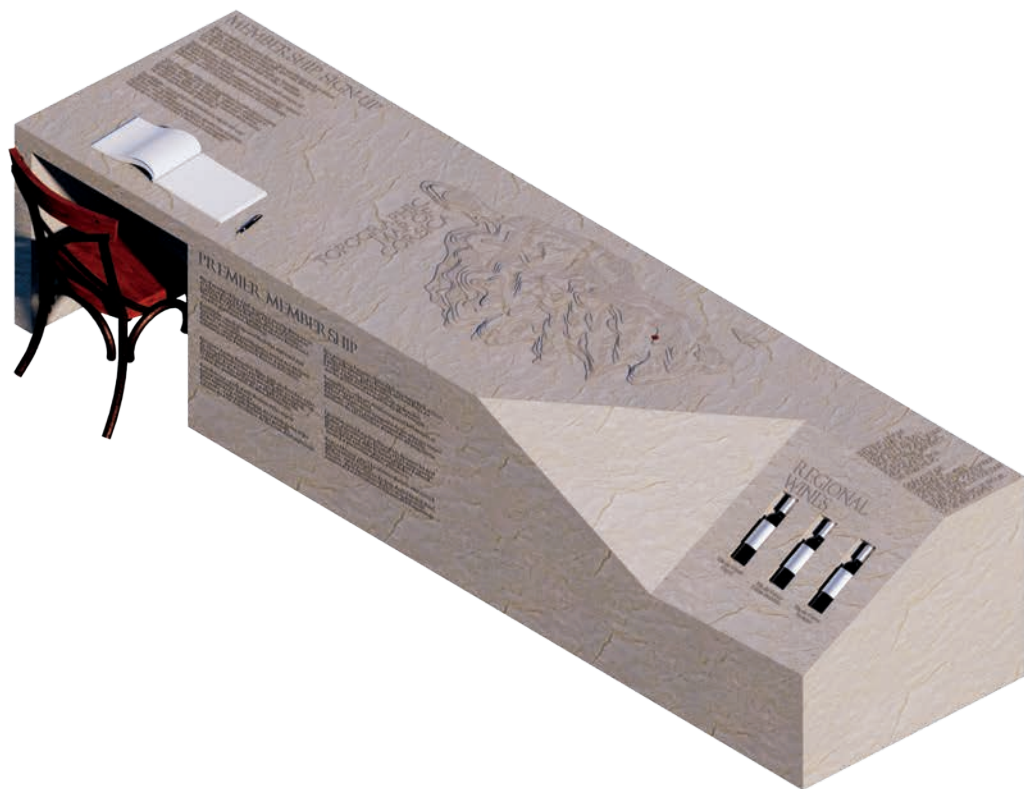
GROUND LEVEL
1. Reception Hall
2. Retail Storage
3. Oenothèque
4. Restrooms

- 5. Laundry
- 6. Janitor's Closet
- 7. Cloister Café



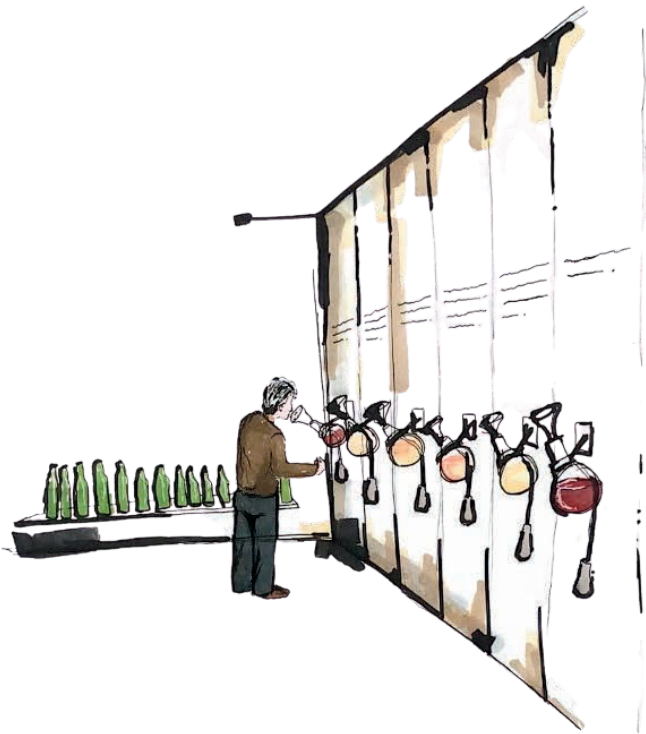
UPPER LEVEL
1. Stocking & Labelling Workspace
2. Pantry
3. Kitchen
4. Office
5. Restrooms
6. Refectory

A custom island with engraved details: a topographic map of Corsica, regional wine selections, local histories, and a winery membership pamphlet.



This space designated as the aging cellar was rediscovered behind a wall during the 2020 restoration of the site. It is assumed it was originally constructed as a crypt for the noble Della Rocca family.

Sketch of the "Smell like a Sommelier" sensory experience located in the Oenothèque. Enables users to sample the notes of various wines with extensive descriptions of each wine sample.



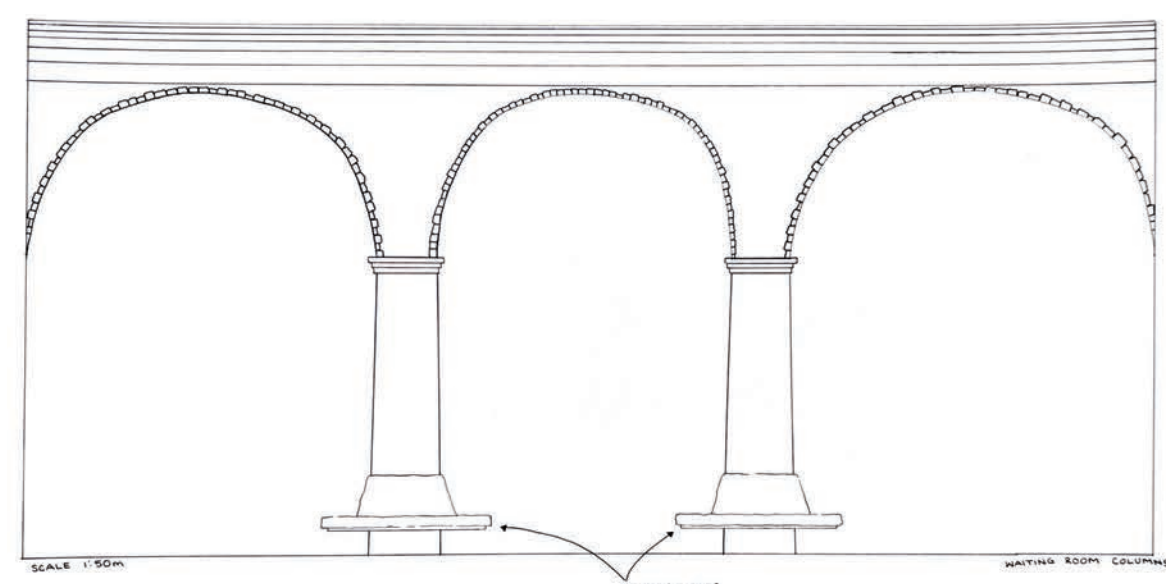
AGING CELLAR



OENOTHÈQUE



RECEPTION HALL



The reception hall is the first space visitors will experience as they're visiting the winery. This room was one of the first rooms constructed on the site and was the only room in the southeast wing to survive after centuries of neglect; therefore, it felt necessary to preserve and showcase as much of the original stonework as possible.



PERSPECTIVE DOODLE - WAITING ROOM