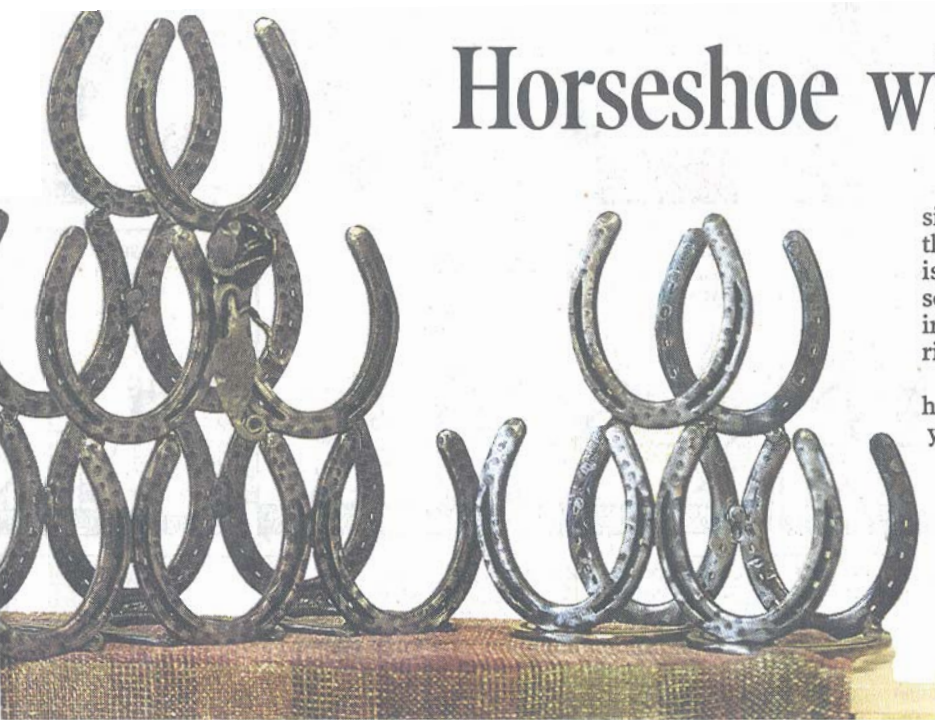


Horseshoe wine rack adds to winning decor



Horseshoes are considered a sign of good luck — especially to the horse that's first across the finish line. There's supposed to be something magical in the power of iron when formed from the marriage of rock and fire.

Magical or not, it's always nice to have something solid around when you want to hold a bottle of wine. And a wine rack made of horseshoes is sure to help you win host of the year.

Jim Jones, creator of these great wine racks and a juried member of Kentucky Crafted, is a self-taught blacksmith who began the craft eight years ago and has been perfecting it through experimentation and instruction in Berea.

Two of Jones' wine-rack designs are available in the Louisville area:

SMART SHOPPER

Marsha Roth



► The Trifecta is made up of eight horseshoes and measures about 9½ inches wide by 11 inches tall. It holds three bottles and costs about \$50.

► The Run for the Rosé has a metal rose poised in the center of its 15 horseshoes and is 15 inches wide by 15 inches tall. It can hold up to six bottles and costs about \$118.

To make his racks, Jones takes pre-made horseshoes, sands them until they shine, then attaches them to each other. As the heat of the forge works on the individual horseshoes, colors form.

When the torch is taken away, the colors remain, giving each horseshoe and wine rack a natural sheen.

You can see more of Jones' work on his Web site: www.forgeon.com.

With a little imagination, a wine rack could play many roles on your table. Of course, it would work for holding bottles, but you also might consider using it as a centerpiece filled with ivy and roses.

Or, perhaps the openings could hold photos of famous horses or family and friends. It's a nice solid piece of Kentucky.

We found Forge On wine racks at the Shop at the Brown in The Brown hotel lobby at 335 W. Broadway. The phone number is 583-1234.

Do you have a great suggestion for the Smart Shopper? Reach Louisville freelancer Marsha Roth at smartshopper@roth-world.net.

By Pat McDonogh, The Courier-Journal

Forge On wine racks are available at the Shop at the Brown in The Brown hotel downtown.