

*“One question that we are constantly getting asked is: “how were we selected to be on the HGTV Battle on the Block show?” The answer is Tracee received an email from a friend asking families to apply for a new show on HGTV. She asked my opinion and lucky for us she didn’t listen because I told her that we would never get selected. The next thing we know...emails start going back and forth then a few phone conversations and within four weeks two people are at our door with a camera to do a preliminary interview with the family. In December they notified us that we were selected and to begin pulling our thoughts and ideas together on an idea board.*

*Tracee and I love to entertain. All of our friends and family always congregate in the kitchen so we were very excited when the producers told us the room we would be making over was the kitchen.*

*When I visit with friends in Boston and Atlanta, I am always impressed with their wine cellars. Well, living in Florida...a wine cellar isn’t a good idea unless you plan on swimming in it. Tracee and I put our heads together. The existing pantry was big, but the layout wasn’t conducive to our life style. We also had a storage room that was being used as a place to collect junk, but had a great long wall. We decided to move the pantry to the storage room and take advantage of the length and height of the wall by adding shelving to store food and kitchen items.*

*The question then became what to do with the old pantry. We both love wine, but never had a place to display some of the great bottles that we collected. Also, as a wedding gift, we were blessed with beautiful Waterford Crystal wine and Champagne glasses that were in boxes. They needed a home as well. I sat down at the table and began to sketch a design. We pitched it to HGTV who was a little reluctant at first. I imagine since they are a family network they didn’t want to promote drinking. When they realized that it was a design element in the kitchen they gave us the green light.*

*After meeting with the Tim and Melody (the general contractors) of Home & Curb Appeal Construction, Inc. and Linda Market who is the owner of Kitchen Cottage (cabinets), we discussed how to bring our dream to reality. We also worked with Mike at Stone House who supplied the granite countertops.*

*With all the work and coordination to make the space not seem small, I knew the door would be another key design element. My vision was a wrought-iron gate with vines and grapes. I wanted to give the impression of walking through a gate into a vineyard. To make that work for the kitchen Tracee came up with an idea to install an etched glass door, which I thought was brilliant! We went on line to begin our search for the perfect door. We became discouraged when we couldn’t find anyone locally that had what we wanted.*

*We contacted Ali Mansfield and Jessica Cozzetta of HGTV and told them of our frustration. They told us if we were very specific of what we wanted they would put out some feelers. We sent them over a very detailed email with ideas, concepts, examples, etc. and they found the door through Sans Soucie.*

*We were concerned because we had to purchase the door sight unseen. We worried for no reason...the door was beautiful.*

*It only got better after it was hung and stained. The uniqueness of the etching added an elegant look to our kitchen. We are getting so many compliments on the door. It literally is a conversation piece when friends and family come to our home. It is like a piece of furniture. The wine room door is one of the crown jewels of the kitchen.”*