

For Immediate Release

December 20, 2006

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RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR CHRISTIE'S INTERNATIONAL WINE DEPARTMENT

New York, London – Christie's International Wine Department reports a record-breaking year of sales in 2006, with a global total of \$58,572,271/£32,360,371/€47,619,732. With an unrivalled network of international sale centers that span across two continents, 2006 has proved the biggest year yet in the history of a Department that celebrated its 40th Anniversary in October.

Across the United States and Europe, 44 sales were conducted across eight sale locations – in New York, Los Angeles, London King Street, London South Kensington, Paris, Burgundy, Geneva and Amsterdam. The only auctioneer to offer sales on both coasts of the United States and in four European nations, Christie's continues to provide collectors the widest and most regular international auction schedule.

In Australia, Langton's, in association with Christie's, conducted 26 sales in Sydney and Melbourne for a sale total of AU\$16,210,000/\$12,319,600 (please note these are not included in the global sales figures above).

David Elswood, International Head of Christie's Wine Department, says: "During the course of 2006, Christie's have recorded exceptional sales results in all of our global sales locations with record-breaking figures for individual lots reflecting a new global demand for fine wines of excellent quality and provenance. Our established worldwide network of salerooms and offices and expertise in all aspects of the fine wine market remain without equal."

33 sales were held in Europe totaling \$30,670,814/£16,945,201/€24,935,621, marking a 20% increase in turnover from 2005. The top lot of the year was a 12-bottle case of 1978 Romanée Conti sold at London King Street in June that fetched £93,500.

2006 saw record sales in Geneva and Amsterdam, the continued success and growth of the Hospices de Beaune auction and the 40th Anniversary sale in October. Also, an exceptional and unique eleven magnum superlot from the legendary 1961 vintage fetched £88,000 in London in December. This lot recreated one of the most spectacular tastings in recent Department history when these legendary wines were tasted at the Metropole Hotel in Monte Carlo in October.

Christie's Americas held 11 sales in 2006 totaling \$27,901,457/£15,415,170, marking a 78% increase in turnover from the previous year. The top lot of the year was a six-magnum case of 1945 Chateau Mouton-Rothschild that realized \$345,000.

Richard Brierley, Head of the Wine Department, Christie's Americas, says: "In March we launched the Evening Sales and the 100% sold results confirmed the market's desire for the very best when presented on a unique Christie's platform. The fall season was the most exciting on record, launched by a \$7.8 million single owner sale - the largest ever wine sale total at Christie's Americas. The second Evening Sale in Los Angeles in September saw the world record record for a case of wine tumble twice as collectors worldwide fought for the Mouton Rothschild 1945 offerings - and New York's second evening sale in November brought average lot values above \$22,000 as Screaming Eagle took center stage, with a 1993-2003 superlot selling for \$176,250. It also saw the first online bidding in wine sales at Christie's, with \$320,000 sold to Christie's LIVE™ internet bidders."

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About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global sales in 2005 that totaled \$3.2 billion. It is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers nearly 1,000 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewelry, photographs, collectibles, wine, cars and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai. In 2005 Christie's annual global sales increased 38% to \$3.2 billion, the highest total in company history and propelling the auction house into global market leadership.