

For Immediate Release  
2 February 2011

Press Release

**CHRISTIE'S**

Contact: Leonie Ashfield +44 (0)20 7752 3121

[lashfield@christies.com](mailto:lashfield@christies.com)

## CHRIS DE BURGH'S WINE COLLECTION TO BE AUCTIONED AT CHRISTIE'S LONDON IN MARCH



Courtesy Ferryman Productions

**London** – Christie's is pleased to announce the sale of *Fine and Rare Wines Including Rarities from The Private Cellar of Chris de Burgh*, which will take place at Christie's King Street saleroom in London, on 24 March 2011, at 10.30am. Comprising 320 bottles and 84 magnums of wine, principally red, *The Private Cellar of Chris de Burgh* is estimated to fetch in the region of £200,000, whilst the sale as a whole is expected to realise over £750,000. Estimates for individual lots range from £500 to £90,000.

*"I started thinking about selling a selection of wines from my collection about five years ago,"* comments Chris de Burgh. *"Looking at the economics of the wine trade and how the business of selling wine fluctuates, I decided now was the right time. Every wine I'm selling I've actually tasted, one way or the other, so I know what I'm missing, but I think the time has come for someone else to enjoy them in my stead. My wife, daughter and I much prefer to drink white wine, but I've greatly enjoyed collecting all sorts of varieties, and vintages, from all over the world. I'll be having an intense review of my cellar to fill the spaces made by this sale – I can now focus on the remainder of my collection."*

Christie's specialists have diligently selected a variety of rare wines from Chris de Burgh's home in Ireland where they were carefully stored by the singer/songwriter and wine connoisseur in a specially constructed temperature controlled wine room and purpose built cabinets.

Chris de Burgh's long love affair with wine began whilst wine waiting at his parents' castle hotel in South East Ireland as a teenager – a guest asked him to try the bottle of Château d'Yquem he'd ordered, and the special moment has stayed with him to this day. However, due to an intense touring and recording schedule, it was not until the early 1980s that he was able to find the time to start seriously collecting wine himself.



Chris de Burgh's favourite wine from the selection on offer in March is a full 12 bottle case of Château Lafite-Rothschild, vintage 1945 (estimate: £12,000-16,000) *illustrated left*. In pristine condition and presented in the original straw which has protected the bottles since the end of the second World War, he finds the history of the case charmingly romantic: "Considering the dramatic events that were unfolding across Europe and particularly in France at that time, it's extraordinary that one of the finest wines of the century was made then".

The highest value lot in the sale is a vertical collection of 62 magnums of Château Mouton-Rothschild, vintages 1945-2005 (estimate: £70,000-90,000). First bought by Chris de Burgh at an auction in 1996 as a vertical of 40 magnums (vintages 1945-85), he has lovingly added to the collection over the years: "It's been a real pleasure adding to the collection, although quite tricky at times to find each year in Magnum. But now I feel that it is time for someone else to enjoy it, and perhaps even add to it further."

Further highlights include a full 12 bottle case of Château Latour, vintage 1961 (estimate: £20,000-30,000) *illustrated right*, as well as a selection of reasonably priced lots of Bordeaux, perfect for those just starting a collection of their own – Château Grand-Puy-Lacoste, vintage 1989 (estimate: £600-800), and Château Ducru-Beaucaillou, vintage 1983 (estimate: £500-600). And whilst the bottles on offer from Chris de Burgh's collection comprise mainly red wines – Bordeaux, as well as some fine Burgundies – also on offer is an interesting selection of rare and mature Château d'Yquem, the wine which first fuelled his collecting passion.



###

*High resolution images and further information available upon request*

<http://www.christies.com/departments/wine/>

#### **Notes to Editors:**

**Auction:** *Fine and Rare Wines Including Rarities from The Private Cellar of Chris de Burgh (7957)*  
Thursday, 24 March 2011 at 10.30am

**Ecatalogue:** Available online from March 2011 at [www.christies.com/calendar](http://www.christies.com/calendar)

#### **Christie's Wine Department**

2010 was a memorable year for Christie's global Wine department, marked by increasing demand, multiple new auction records for the finest Bordeaux and Burgundy, and a remarkable influx of new buyers from all over Asia. In 2010, global wine sales at Christie's totalled US\$71.2 million/£45.8 million, an impressive 70.1% increase over 2009

in £. These strong results underscore Christie's continued success in developing international strategy to offer sellers and buyers the finest choice of wine sales across five sites in Europe, New York and Hong Kong. Christie's continues to be the only art business to offer such a wide range of locations and sales options to clients.

### **About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2010 that totaled £3.3 billion/\$5.0 billion. Christie's is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service and expertise, as well as 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 over 450 sales annually in over 80 categories, including all areas of fine and decorative arts, jewellery, photographs, collectibles, wine, and more. Prices range from \$200 to over \$100 million. Christie's has 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging and new markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

### **Chris de Burgh**

Chris de Burgh, the British/Irish singer-songwriter, has a unique, vivid slant on musical story-telling. He has achieved International success with a music career spanning three decades and counting. He is most well-known for his hit 'Lady In Red', released in 1986. The song is undeniably an evergreen classic, having achieved No. 1 status in 25 countries, including the UK, as well as No. 2 in America. The record has now sold in excess of 8 million copies. Chris de Burgh will begin a tour of the UK in April 2011 for his current and 23<sup>rd</sup> album, *Moonfleet & Other Stories*. For further information on Chris de Burgh please visit <http://www.cdeb.com/cdebnew/index.php>