CHRISTIE'S

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SERVED TO KINGS, QUEENS, PRESIDENTS & PRIME MINISTERS

WINES FROM THE GOVERNMENT HOSPITALITY CELLAR

AT CHRISTIE'S IN MARCH





London – Christie's is pleased to announce that a selection of fine wines from the Government Hospitality Cellar will be offered in the sale of *Fine & Rare Wines including a Superb Private Collection of Rare Large Formats*, on the 21 March 2013. Located at Lancaster House, near Buckingham Palace (London), the Cellar serves the government committee and their guests from Kings and Queens to Presidents and Prime Ministers. Leading the auction are six bottles of the highly sought after vintage 1961 *Château Latour* (lot 207, estimate: £20,000-£30,000, *illustrated above*). The exceptional provenance and quality of the wines from this cellar provide international wine collectors and enthusiasts around the world with a rare opportunity. Overall, the collection is expected to realise in the region of £50,000, with estimates ranging from £3,500 to £30,000.

David Elswood, International Director of Christie's Wine in Europe and Asia said:

"This is a truly rare opportunity for buyers to have the chance to pull the cork from a bottle of very fine wine that comes with the unique storage provenance of the Government Hospitality Fund's very own cellars."

Mark Simmonds, Foreign Office Minister: "I warmly welcome this auction of wine from the Government Wine Cellar. This is part of the process for making the cellar self-funding for the lifetime of the current Parliament."

HISTORY OF THE GOVERNMENT HOSPITALITY CELLAR

The establishment of the former Government Hospitality Fund in 1908 to provide hospitality for high-level overseas government guests led eventually to the requirement to create a government wine cellar. Located in the basement of Lancaster House for many years, the Government Hospitality wine cellar is an exemplar of professional cellar management over many decades. Wines are bought young and held in the cellar in ideal conditions; so that they can be used when fully mature. The cellar has been maintained on traditional lines, with a great depth of quality of French wines, notably Bordeaux and Burgundy. The selection of wines for the cellar is carried out on the recommendation of the Government Hospitality Wine Committee. The Chairman and the four Masters of Wine members of the Committee make their selections for purchases based on blind tastings. Wines are then occasionally reviewed throughout their life to determine quality, longevity, and readiness for drinking.

Today Government Hospitality still manages in excess of 200 events per year for all government departments and ministers, from the Prime Minister down. Many of the wines included in this sale have been served across the decades to Kings and Queens, Presidents and Prime Ministers. The following lots 207 to 212 have been removed directly from the Government Hospitality cellars at Lancaster House, London, where they have been stored since original purchase from top UK merchants. To preserve the exceptional provenance each bottle has been given a numbered Prooftag Bubble SealTM affixed by Christie's on the neck of the bottle. All are packed in Christie's cartons.

SIX LOTS TO BE OFFERED FROM THE GOVERNMENT HOSPITALITY CELLARS

Thursday 21 March 2013



Lot 207

Château Latour, vintage 1961

Paulillac, 1er cru classé, six bottles

Tasting notes:

Port-like, with an unctuous texture, and a dark garnet colour with considerable amber at the edge, the 1961 Latour possesses a viscosity and thickness. One of the three bottles served at the Château's tasting revealed a surprisingly aggressive, minty, herbaceous nose, but the other two bottles were liquid perfection, exhibiting fragrant, cedary, truffle, leather, mineral, and sweet, jammy aromatics, full-bodied, voluptuous textures, exquisite purity and concentration, and a layered, highly-nuanced finish that represents the essence of compellingly great wine. The 1961 has been fully mature for over 15 years, but it seems to get richer, holding onto its succulence and fat, and developing more aromatic nuances without losing any sweetness or concentration. An extraordinary wine, it is unquestionably one of the Bordeaux legends of the century! Anticipated maturity: now-2025. Robert Parker, Wine Advocate #129 Jun 2000

Estimate: £,20,000-30,000



Lot 208

Pétrus, vintage 1970

Pomerol, cru exceptional, six bottles

Tasting notes:

This dark garnet-coloured wine shows considerable amber at the edge. I have always had a tendency to taste this side by side with the 1971, and it has been fascinating how the 1971 was fully mature at a much younger age yet continued to hold onto life without losing any of its seductive fruit and intensity. The 1970 started off life more tannic, backward, massive, but needing considerable time and it has now hit full stride. It is a profound Pétrus, and certainly one of the great Pétrus of the last half century. The wine has a huge nose of cedar, caramel, vanilla, tobacco, fruitcake, and liquorice-infused black cherry jam. It is unctuously textured and very full-bodied, with extraordinary sweetness and glycerin, and a layered, viscous finish. This wine should continue to drink well for at least another 20 years. Anticipated maturity: Now-2025. Last tasted, 11/02. Robert Parker, Bordeaux Book, 4th Edition Ian 2003

Estimate: £4,000-6,000

Lot 209

Pétrus, vintage 1978 *Pomerol, cru exceptional*, six bottles

No Tasting Note provided

Estimate: f,3,500-5,000





Lot 210

Château Mouton Rothschild, vintage 1986

Pauillac, 1er cru classé, twelve bottles

Tasting notes:

Reputedly to be outstandingly the best '86. Time will tell. In the mid to late 1990s, impressive, fragrant, very tannic. In 2003: opaque, intense; a wine of vast dimensions. Two very recent notes: still immature; crisp fruit, taut, bricky; full-bodied, slightly raw but spicy, rich, chewy. Good length, hard tannins. Nowhere near ready. Last tasted Nov 2005. Hopefully *(****) 2010- M.B.

Estimate: £5,000-6,000



Lot 211
Le Pin, vintage 1986
Pomerol, twelve bottles

Tasting notes:

One of the more structured examples of Le Pin, and still surprisingly youthful for a wine that critics say needs to be drunk in its first 5-10 years, this dark garnet-coloured wine has notes of liquorice, loamy soil scents, sweet black cherries and currants along with some truffle and vanilla. The wine is medium-bodied with a certain firmness and delineation, and less of the charm, glycerin, and opulence that the ripe, more generous vintages provide. The finish is long and almost Médoclike. Anticipated maturity: Now-2015. Last taste, 12/01. Robert Parker, Bordeaux Book, 4th Edition Jan 2003.

Estimate: £7,500-10,000



Lot 212

Château Lafite Rothschild, vintage 1988

Pauillac, 1er cru classé, twelve bottles

Tasting notes:

Most recently, still very deep, intense, opaque core but on the verge of maturity; high Cabernet Sauvignon noticeable though overall subdued; on the palate, sweet, almost chewable, with a good, long, dry finish. Last tasted March 2006 *** (**) 2008-2020. M.B.

Estimate: £6,000-8,000

PRESS CONTACT: Amber Hailes | +44 (0) 207 389 2391 | <u>ahailes@christies.com</u> <u>Please click here</u> for the complete eCatalogue

AUCTION

Fine & Rare Wines including a Superb Private Collection of Rare Large Formats
Thursday, 21 March 2013
10:30am and 2:30pm

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in 2012 that totaled £3.92 billion/\$6.27 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 has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions 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 also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £631.3 million/\$1 billion in 2012, an increase of 26% on the same period last year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth markets such as Russia, China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Mumbai and Dubai.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.

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