

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **A NEW WORLD AUCTION RECORD FOR A CASE OF WINE ONE OF INNUMERABLE HIGHLIGHTS AT CHRISTIE'S INAUGURAL WINE EVENING SALE IN NEW YORK**

#### **The Evening Sale: Finest And Rarest Wines**

**March 2, 2006**

**New York** - An extraordinary March 2 evening sale at Christie's New York saw collectors from across the globe gather in a packed saleroom at Rockefeller Center to celebrate and bid on a unique selection of some of the best wines in the world. The 100% sold 119-lot auction totaled \$2.6 million – over \$1 million more than the pre-sale high estimate.

During the proceedings the top lot of the sale, a six-magnum case of 1985 Romanée-Conti from Burgundy, France, set a new world record for a case of wine at auction when it fetched an incredible \$170,375 – the equivalent of over \$14,200 a bottle.

88% of all lots exceeded their pre-sale high estimates and successful bidders came from Europe, Asia and the Americas, many either joining the sale by telephone or having left bids online at [christies.com](http://christies.com).

Five other lots broke the \$100,000 barrier, including a double-magnum of Château Cheval-Blanc 1947 that realized \$135,125 and Michael Broadbent's eight-case lot of 'five-star' wines from the 2000 Bordeaux vintage that fetched \$105,750. The top California lot of the night was a 21-bottle vertical of Screaming Eagle from Napa Valley, spanning the 1995-2002 vintages that made \$52,875.

Richard Brierley, Head of North American Wine Sales, says: “This unique evening sale format for wine and its inaugural success confirms Christie’s as the premier auction venue for all things fine and rare. We were delighted by the market’s response to this carefully-crafted sale. We look forward to conducting our next evening sale in the Fall of 2006 – and are already accepting consignments.”

The auction presented an outstanding offering of classified Bordeaux and Grand Cru Burgundy, complemented by the very best Madeira, Vintage Port, incredible Rhône wines, legendary California Cabernet and Tokaji.

The sale saw a variety of lots offered with exceptional provenance from many of America’s greatest private collections, along with rare vintages and wines recently released from their place of production.

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**Notes to Editors:**

The world auction record for a bottle of wine stands at \$157,500 – achieved at Christie’s London in 1985 for a bottle of 1787 Château Lafite.

Christie’s International Wine Department is the leading global fine wine auctioneer, with nine sale locations around the world and a dedicated team of specialists across Europe and North America. In 2005 the Department once again claimed pole position in the market, with an annual sales total of \$41,968,232.

Christie’s remains the only international wine auctioneer to sell on both sides of the United States – and in Europe, the only auction house to hold regular sales outside London.

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