

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CHRISTIE'S TO OFFER FIRST CLASS SALE OF FINEST & RAREST WINES IN HONG KONG

- May auction features superlative 'One Owner' wines of pristine provenance – an important factor in today's market
- Unique to Christie's: 'CELLAR LOTS' – The perfect starting point for new collectors offering several dozen mixed lots to establish a fine cellar

**Hong Kong** – Following the successful return to Asia for Christie's International Wine Department in November 2008 with the landmark sale of wines from the famed Château Latour, Christie's is pleased to announce the Spring auction of *Finest and Rarest Wines* will take place in Hong Kong on Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. **Superlative wines with pristine provenance are the cornerstone of this sale** - indeed, many of the wines offered are **'one-owner' wines** that not only boast spotless provenance, but are in perfect condition, are still packed in their original wooden cases, and have well-documented history of storage at the highest standards. In today's market, such opportunities are extremely important, but also exceedingly rare. With a superlative range of wines of utmost quality, this sale stands alone on this season's auction calendar, making it a not-to-be-missed event for collectors in Asia.

**Among the superstar wines offered this season:** a range of vintages from Pétrus, including several magnificent five star vintages such as the 2000 - in its original packaging; a very rare selection of the ever-popular Château d'Yquem, including very rare bottles dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century; an exceptional case of 1959 Château Latour in top condition; a superlative collection of Château Lafite-Rothschild purchased by the consignor directly from the Château; a selection of wine from legendary Burgundy wine maker Henri Jayer, a rarity on the auction market today; and a range of top vintage champagnes. **And unique to Christie's - being offered for the first time in Asia - is a group of 'Cellar Lots,' an exciting opportunity to purchase a complete and ready-made collection of top quality wine at different levels of price and rarity.**

### ONE-OWNER SELECTIONS & PRISTINE COLLECTIONS: Singular Collecting Opportunities in Today's Market

Christie's has a long history of over 240 years of selling the finest wines at auction, starting with James Christie's very first sale in 1766 which featured a selection of fine Claret. Since then, Christie's has offered the widest and most carefully sourced wines at auctions around the world – now on three continents – selecting only the finest and rarest wines with history and provenance.



**Leading the sale is a ‘one-owner’ selection of the finest quality wines in pristine and perfect condition, still packed in their original wooden cases.** The history and storage of this exceptional collection is also well-recorded, with every case being stored since original purchase in the cool underground cellars of Octavian at Corsham in the rural English county of Wiltshire. **There are truly very few genuine opportunities to find wines of this quality and provenance in the trading-obsessed global market today.** An absolute must for any Bordeaux lover are the opening lots – 10 perfect cases of Lafite-Rothschild 1982 (estimate: HK\$150,000-200,000 per case/lot).

Also of note is an original wooden case of Pétrus 1989 (estimate: HK\$250,000-300,000) and a very rare original wooden case of Latour 1959 from a London cellar (HK\$350,000-500,000). Representing a rare opportunity for bidders is a pristine collection of fine recent vintages from Lafite-Rothschild that was shipped directly from the Château to professional UK storage following each vintage – **this is as close in provenance as can be found to wines released directly from the Château cellars.**



## **CELLAR LOTS: A New Concept in Christie's Finest Wine Auctions**

**This sale will introduce a new concept unique to Christie's – ‘Cellar Lots’ comprising 10 or 20 cases of pre-selected wines to help establish a new cellar or enhance an existing collection.** The benefit to the buyer of these ‘super lots’ is that they will acquire, at the single fall of the auctioneer's gavel, a unique and extensive collection of high-quality wines recommended by Christie's experts. These well-curated mini-collections feature top quality wines which represent the essential items for any respectable cellar collection.

### **‘The Collector's Lot’**

Estimate: HK\$100,000 – 150,000 / US\$13,000 – 19,000

Consisting of 20 cases, this lot is ideal for someone looking to establish a new cellar from scratch as it offers an instant infusion of a carefully selected range of wines with quality and maturity that are ready for drinking. **All cases have come from excellent long-term storage and are offered with their original packaging.** This lot includes Bollinger Champagne, 2006 white Burgundy, and a great range of mature Bordeaux from the best vintages of famed Châteaux such as Léoville-Barton, Cos d'Estournel and Pichon-Longueville Baron. For a sweet finish, you will find half bottles of fine Sauternes dessert wine from Château Guiraud from the exceptional 2005 vintage, as well as a case of magnums of Dow's Vintage Port from the highly regarded 1977 vintage.

### **‘The Connoisseur's Lot’**

Estimate: HK\$200,000 – 300,000 / US\$26,000 – 38,000






This carefully curated assortment of 20 cases is wonderfully suited to one looking to augment an existing cellar. This selection contains Krug Grand Cuvée Champagne, mature Domaine Leflaive white Burgundy, and quality Bordeaux including Calon-Ségur, Montrose, Gruaud-Larose and Ducru-Beaucaillou from the benchmark 1982 vintage, superb Léoville -Barton 1986 in bottles and magnums, and **classic First Growth Château Lafite-Rothschild of the famed 1989 vintage.** We also include half bottles of Château Rieussec from 2005 and a case of Dow Vintage Port of the superb and fully mature 1970 vintage.

## 'The Ultimate Luxury Lot'

Estimate: HK\$850,000 1,100,000/ US\$110,000 – 140,000

This ready-made selection of 10 cases offers a stunning and ultra rare collection of wines that would grace any established cellar or prestigious collection. Featuring wonderful wine ideal for special occasions, this lot includes Louis Roederer Cristal champagne from 1990, along with mature **1969, 1971 and 1975 vintages of recently released Dom Pérignon 'Oenothèque'**, a rare champagne aged over the long term in the champagne house's special Oenothèque wine library. Also featured are **exceptional 1982 vintage Bordeaux including a full case of Château Lafite-Rothschild, Domaine de la Romanée-Conti from Burgundy, and the legendary Château d'Yquem from 2001.** The lover of port will delight in a very rare full case of the highly sought-after Taylor's Vintage Port from the legendary 1948 vintage. *Virtually every wine in this lot has been attributed a 'Parker 100' scoring on famed wine critic Robert Parker's 100-point scale.*

### And Not to Be Missed: Further Sale Highlights & Tasting Notes

 <p><b>Lot 291</b>  <b>Château Pétrus 1947</b>  <b>Estimate:</b>  <b>HK\$150,000-200,000/ US\$19,000-26,000</b>          Michael Broadbent in Vintage Wine wrote that Pétrus 1947 was “Unsurprisingly magnificent..... It was fabulous: deep, rich, rounded, more than faultless”</p>	 <p><b>Lots 296 &amp; 297</b>  <b>Château Lynch-Bages 1961</b>  <b>Estimate:</b>  <b>HK\$30,000-40,000/ US\$3,800 – 5,200</b>          This 1961 is a delectable addition to anyone's cellar. Michael Broadbent MW has described the wine as fairly intense and praises its “dry, taut, crisp, excellent flavour.”</p>
 <p><b>Lots 300 &amp; 301</b>  <b>Château Cheval Blanc 1966</b>  <b>Estimate:</b>  <b>HK\$25,000-35,000 / US\$3,200 – 4,500</b>          With a moderate alcohol content of 12.2%, this wine from St. Emilion is a prize to be won for any savvy collector. Offering a luscious, fresh and crisp bouquet, Michael Broadbent MW referred to the 1966 Cheval Blanc as simply “a superb wine.”</p>	 <p><b>Lot 315</b>  <b>Château Pétrus 1989</b>  <b>Estimate:</b>  <b>HK\$250,000-350,000/ US\$32,000-45,000</b>          Robert Parker writing in his Bordeaux Book stated that Pétrus 1989 “looks to be another 30-year wine, with extraordinary equilibrium between all of its component parts. An amazing effort!”</p>
 <p><b>Lots 349 - 351</b>  <b>Château Latour 2005</b>  <b>Estimate: HK\$70,000-90,000/ US\$9,000 – 12,000</b>          Wine critic Robert Parker recommends cellaring this classic Latour for 15 or more years. Indeed, this aging will help bring out the rainbow of aromas which range from crème de cassis and black cherries to dried mushrooms and crushed rocks. An intensely full-bodied wine, the 2005 vintage combines high tannin with a sharp acidity – sure to please the palate in years to come.</p>	 <p><b>Lot 362</b>  <b>Domaine de la Romanée-Conti Grand Cru 2002</b>  <b>Estimate:</b>  <b>HK\$350,000 – 550,000 / US\$45,000 – 70,000</b>          For many connoisseurs of fine wine, this Burgundian estate sets the benchmark for superior quality, and the outstanding 2002 vintage provides an inviting taste for the sophisticated wine enthusiast.</p>

**High-resolution IMAGES of highlights from this sale can be downloaded here:**

<http://shkmyfipong/2009/03/Christie%20Hong%20Kong%20Spring%20Auctions/Finest%20and%20Rarest%20Wines/>

**The CATALOG for this sale is available online:**

[http://www.christies.com/Catalogues/index.aspx?Sale\\_ID=22521&CatParameter=Cat/2521/03/01](http://www.christies.com/Catalogues/index.aspx?Sale_ID=22521&CatParameter=Cat/2521/03/01)

**Auction:**

*Finest and Rarest Wines*

Sunday, May 24, 2009 at 2:00pm

Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre

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**About Christie's**

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2008 that totaled £2.8 billion/\$5.1 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 600 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 \$80 million. Christie's has 70 offices in 30 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. For more information, please visit [www.christies.com](http://www.christies.com).