

For Immediate Release

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## CHRISTIE'S GENEVA MAY 2009 SALES

- **6 D COLOUR DIAMONDS LEAD THE JEWELLERY TOP TEN ACHIEVING STRONG RESULTS**
- **CONTINUED STRONG DEMAND FROM INTERNATIONAL COLLECTORS FOR THE FINEST WATCHES**
- **SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL PRIVATE COLLECTORS AS GENEVA MAINTAINS ITS POSITION AS AN IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL AUCTION CENTRE**
- **266 PARTICIPANTS VIA CHRISTIE'S *LIVE* THIS WEEK**

**Geneva** – Christie's Spring sale week in Geneva realised a total of SFr. 38,028,133 / \$34,694,480 / €25,412,974 and set strong prices for watches, wine and jewels. During the three days of auctions, six lots sold above SFr. 1 million, and several new auction records were established. This week's positive results illustrate the continuing demand for high-quality objects that are reasonably estimated, and that strong prices can be achieved for items of historical provenance or great rarity. The buyer breakdown for the sales (combined) was 72% Europe, 16% Asia including Middle East and 12% Americas.

*"This week of sales further restored confidence in the auction market and proved that Geneva continues to be a major international centre for selling high quality jewellery, watches and wine. CHRISTIE'S LIVE, our realtime internet auction facility, played a significant role in the success of these sales and we also welcomed several first time buyers. Museum buying was particularly strong in the watch sale and two out of the top three lots will be displayed at the Breguet Museum and a Private Swiss Museum."*, said **François Curiel, Chairman of Christie's Europe and President of Christie's Switzerland.**

### **Important Pocket Watches and Wristwatches: Monday 11 May 2009**

- **SFr. 15,154,325 / \$13,709,336 / €10,060,738**
- **93.5% by value and 93.15% by lot**
- **Buyer breakdown (by lot): 54% Europe, 24% Americas, 21% Asia including Middle East**

Christie's continues to be the leading marketplace for the sale of fine and rare watches and the Geneva sale realised SFr.15,154,325, exceeding the high pre-sale estimate of SFr. 12 million. Over the last six months Christie's dominant role in the watch market has grown from 82% sold by value and 88% by lot in November 2006 to 93% in May 2009, an increase of 11% by value and 5% by lot. A packed saleroom attracted a significant number of registrants (764) and generated bids from all over the world with a notable increase in Asian buying, demonstrating the international appeal of exceptional watches. International collectors and Swiss Museums accounted for the majority of the sale. Online bidding continued to grow and 198 bidders from Asia, US, Europe and Canada used Christie's LIVE to participate in the sale. The morning session was highlighted by a Royal rarity, when a *Montre de Carosse* made in 1812 by Breguet for Caroline Bonaparte, Queen of Naples (lot 59) was bought by the Breguet Museum for SFr. 723,000. Watches of exceptional quality that were fresh to the market sold exceptionally well throughout the day, including lot 84 which doubled its pre-sale estimate realising SFr. 1.9 million. The afternoon was dominated by a rediscovered and probably unique Patek Philippe aviator watch (lot 209) which sold to a Swiss Private Museum for SFr. 1.89 million - 6 times its pre-sale estimate. The sale also offered one of the largest selections of Rolex watches seen at auction in recent years, resulting in over 90% sold by lot and numerous new auction world records were set including lot 339, a Rolex, reference 6062.



**Top lot:**

**Lot 84. Patek Philippe.** An 18K pink gold perpetual calendar chronograph wristwatch with moon phase. Ref. 2499, completed in 1960

Estimate: SFr. 1,000,000-1,500,000

Price realized: SFr. 1,935,800

**Fine Wine: Tuesday 12 May 2009**

- **SFr. 1,524,383 / \$1,398,516 / €1,023,763**
- **96% by value and 94% by lot**
- **Buyer breakdown (by lot): 86% Europe, 9% Asia, 5% Americas**

The sale produced the highest sold percentage (by lot) for a Geneva wine sale in recent years. This builds on the impressive results seen at Christie's wine sales around the world so far this year. The first section of this sale featured an amazing selection of large format, top quality Bordeaux which attracted huge interest from Europe, Asia and the USA and fierce bidding from the internet, telephones and in the room. Significant prices were also realised for wines from more recent vintages reversing recent trends and showing renewed confidence in the market; an *Impériale* of Château Ausone - Vintage 2005 sold for SFr. 18,400 (lot 53) and an *Impériale* of Pétrus - Vintage 2005 realised SFr. 27,600 (lot 83). Strong results were also achieved for the older and rarer vintages of Bordeaux and Burgundy.



**Top lot:**

**Lot 63. 1 impériale of Pétrus—Vintage, 1982**

Estimate: SFr. 30,000-40,000

Price realized: SFr. 34,500

**Jewels: The Geneva Sale: Wednesday 13 May 2009**

- SFr. 21,349,425 / \$19,586,628 / €14,328,473
- 81% by value and 66% by lot
- **Buyer breakdown (by lot): 41% Europe including Russia, 36% Asia including Middle East, 23% Americas**

This sale demonstrated that auctions are the perfect arena in which to sell jewels and precious stones that are fresh to the market. Collectors remain confident in high-quality gems that are reasonably estimated and finely presented. A timeless Van Cleef & Arpels collection was 100% sold and totalled SFr. 894,900. It was highlighted by a mystery-set ruby and diamond *Pavot* brooch selling for SFr.147,000, thus demonstrating that the firm's motto, "*It is the signature that counts*", remains as true as it has ever been. Diamonds were in high demand and dominated the top 8 prices achieved in the sale. Furthermore, a cushion-shaped Burmese sapphire sold for \$13,300 per carat, doubled its pre-sale estimate. Buyers that participated in the sale were highly international with a remarkable increase in Asian and Middle-Eastern buying, as well as significant Russian participation.



**Top lot:**

**Lot 196.** A rectangular-cut, D colour, Flawless diamond of 30.52 carats

Estimate on request

Price realized: SFr. 3,459,000

\$ per carat: \$104,000

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Images are available upon request

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