

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

For Immediate Release

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**FALL WINE SEASON OPENS SEPTEMBER 12
AT CHRISTIE'S NEW YORK**

RARE BORDEAUX AND BURGUNDY AND SELECTIONS FROM THE
STORIED CELLARS OF NEW YORK'S '21' CLUB TO HIGHLIGHT SALE



New York – The Fall wine auction season opens September 12 at Christie's New York with an exceptional selection of fine and rare wines from prominent collections, including a combination of unique rarities and attractively priced classics that are well-suited to collectors eager to line their cellars with some of the greatest wines of the past century. A highlight of the sale is a focused selection from the cellars of the '21' Club, one of New York's most famed restaurants and winner of the Wine Spectator Grand Award for six years running. The total sale, which includes over 670 lots sourced from several prominent collections, is expected to realize in excess of \$1.9 million.

Charles Curtis, Head of Wine Sales, Christie's Americas, comments: *"We are eager to welcome collectors back from the summer break with a sale that is jam-packed with rare and exciting consignments from top-quality private cellars. Auction prices for fine and rare wines have continued to rebound from last winter's low, inspiring renewed interest from buyers eager to find new treasures for their collections. To that end, we have assembled a superlative offering of the finest mature vintages from Bordeaux and Burgundy, along with a great variety of more recent vintages suitable for laying down. And for those collectors who value a bit of New York legend with their wine, we are delighted to have partnered with the '21' Club to offer an alluring selection of French, Italian, and California wines that have been impeccably stored in the restaurant's famed Prohibition-era "hidden" cellar."*

Rare Wines from a Connoisseur's Collection

Among the most coveted lots of the sale is a brace of rare Bordeaux and Burgundy from a pristine private collection. These well-curated examples can only be found in the rare wine auction market, and nearly all are ultimate examples of their kind, making them truly essential for building any top-quality cellar collection. Accordingly, more than a dozen lots from this collection are valued above the \$20,000 mark, led by 3 magnums of 1947 Cheval Blanc (estimate: \$40,000-60,000), 2 magnums of 1990 Romanée-Conti (estimate: \$40,000-50,000), 5 bottles of 1962 Romanée-Conti (estimate: \$35,000-50,000), and a case of 1945 Château La Mission Haut-Brion (estimate: \$30,000-50,000).

For collectors particularly drawn to large-format bottles, this collection offers a treasure trove of investment-quality wines, in vintages mature and young. Highlights and sizes include: methuselahs (six-liter bottles) of 1985 and 1988 La Tâche and 1988 Montrachet, jeroboams (five-liter bottles) of 1949, 1959 and 1961 Château Latour, and magnums (1.5 liter bottles) of 1949 Cheval Blanc, 1971 and 1990 La Tâche, and the 1962, 1969, 1971 and 1976 vintages of Romanée-Conti.

'21' Club

Famed for its hidden wine cellar and private dining rooms as well as its illustrious clientele, the '21' Club has been host to world leaders, power-lunchers, and scores of celebrities since 1930, imbuing this 52nd Street landmark with a fascinating history that is tightly interwoven with New York City itself. Christie's is honoured to offer a selection of wines sourced from the '21's award-winning wine list, including an alluring array of Red Burgundies, California stand-outs, and a smattering of Italian greats, among others. Pressed for storage space, the restaurant wine director carefully culled these 630 bottles from the cellar's overflow stock, ensuring that the restaurant's regular patrons will continue to enjoy their favourite wines. Capital raised from the



auction of these lots will be used to further expand the restaurant's wine list.

Among the highlights are 6 bottles of 1999 Musigny, Vieilles Vignes from the famous estate of Comte Georges De Vogüé, packed in the original wooden case (estimate: \$2,200-3,000); 3 bottles of newly-released Domaine de la Romanée-Conti's La Tâche – Vintage 2006 (estimate: \$1,500-2,000); a dozen bottles of 2001 Bryant Family Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon, packed in the original carton (estimate: \$2,400-3,200); and a case of 1998 Barbaresco from Santo Stefano di Nieve (estimate: \$1,000-1,500).

New World Favorites

Rounding out the sale is a selection of wines from California's top producers, including Napa Valley cult favourites Harlan Estate, Colgin, Screaming Eagle, and Dunn, among others. Produced only in limited quantities, these wines are known for world-class quality and long waiting lists. Highlights from the sale include 2005 Harlan Estate in original wooden cases (estimate: \$2,400-3,500); 1996, 1999 and 2002 vintages of Screaming Eagle, all in original wooden cases (estimate range: \$3,000-5,500 per lot); and 1999 Colgin from its most renowned vineyard, Herb Lamb, which produces only about 350 cases each vintage (estimate: \$1,200-1,800).

Auction:

Fine and Rare Wines

Saturday, September 12, 2009 at 10:00 am

Christie's, 20 Rockefeller Center

Complete catalogue available online at www.christies.com or via the Christie's iPhone app

Images from this sale are available at [ftp://ftpus.christies.com/Wine](http://ftpus.christies.com/Wine) (user name and password: christies)

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 53 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.

* Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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