

For Immediate Release

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HIGHEST WINE SALE TOTAL EVER AT CHRISTIE'S AMERICAS SECOND HIGHEST EVER IN THE HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Finest And Rarest Wines: An Extraordinary Private Collection September 16, 2006

New York – The highest sale total ever achieved at a Christie's wine sale in the Americas was realized on Saturday September 16 at Christie's New York. An extraordinary 1,200 lot private cellar featuring some of the most sought-after wines in the world totaled \$7,787,136. The total also marked the second largest auction total in the history of the International Wine Department, behind the *Grands Crus: A Superlative Private Cellar* sale, held on 18 & 19 September 1997 at Christie's in London that realized \$11,290,054.

Richard Brierley, Head of North American Wine Sales: "The biggest wine sale ever to take place at Christie's Americas provided a fantastic start to a season packed with outstanding auctions and events both here in New York and in Los Angeles. A swathe of international phone bidders joined the cream of the American collecting world in a six-hour auction, battling over some of the greatest wines in the world.

"Extraordinary prices were paid for blue-chip stock that came to market with impeccable provenance and Christie's was delighted to be entrusted with the sale of this immaculate cellar. We now look forward to our inaugural West Coast Evening Sale, to take place in Beverly Hills on September 28. "

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Notes to Editors:

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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