

## **For Immediate Release**

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### **PAN-EUROPEAN WINE SALE SCHEDULE SET TO DELIGHT A GLOBAL AUDIENCE OF WINE COLLECTORS THIS AUTUMN AT CHRISTIE'S**

**Fifteen Auctions To Include International Wine Department 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations**

**Christie's Returns To Burgundy To Conduct The Fabled Hospices De Beaune Auction**

**Biggest Ever Geneva Sale And 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Auction in Amsterdam**

**London** - Christie's, the world's leading wine auctioneers, announces full details of its European sale season this coming Autumn. Fifteen auctions are scheduled, including three sales in London celebrating the Department's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Hospices de Beaune wine auction in Burgundy, a single-owner collection of Italian wines, the biggest ever Geneva wine sale and a 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Amsterdam auction.

In total, the sales will offer over 10,000 lots of the finest and most desirable wines to an unrivalled client base. Christie's is the only international auction house to hold regular European sales outside of London and remains committed to bringing wine sales closer to both vendor and buyer. In its entirety, the Autumn season in Europe is expected to realize in excess of £10 million/€12 million.

A number of world-class tasting and dinner events are also scheduled, including An Evening With Michael Broadbent MW on November 30 in London, and a 1961 Magnum tasting event at the Hôtel Métropole in Monte Carlo.

David Elswood, International Head of the Wine Department, says: "The global thirst for the finest and rarest wines continues to increase with each passing vintage. Our current European saleroom network now extends to London, both King Street and South Kensington, Geneva, Amsterdam,

Paris and Burgundy – along with a bi-ennial sale in Bordeaux. Virtually every classic vintage and property of the last two centuries will be offered during our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary sales in London in October, with the five sales across mainland Europe continuing to serve as an invaluable link to the International market. I look forward to another season of exciting auctions and to continue a global trend towards quality and excellence at all price levels and to raising a glass to producers and consumers wherever they are.”

## **2006 European Sales Highlights:**

### **October 5 - Christie's London**

#### **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Finest & Rarest Wine Sale**

The first sale of the first season of the Christie's Wine Department took place in October 11, 1966 – in that first season the Department catalogued over 11,000 lots, serviced 796 vendors and attracted 2,945 buyers. The sold total for the first season was a modest but encouraging £220,634 – and in the process a new international market for fine wine was established. On October 5, Christie's will celebrate the 40th Anniversary with an enticing auction for clients both new and old.

Chris Munro, Head of London Wine Sales, comments: “Following on from an extremely successful 15 June Finest and Rarest wine sale in London, we are pleased to present our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary sale, featuring some of the world's greatest wines in large format, including a jeroboam of Latour 1961 (£25,000-30,000), an impériale of Lafite-Rothschild 1961 (£6,000-8,000), and an impériale of Latour 1982 (£5,000-7,000). We will also be offering a further case of Romanée-Conti 1978, the most expensive case of wine ever-sold at auction in Europe.”

### **October 16 & 19 - Christie's London**

Two other sales in London during the month of October also contribute to the celebrations: On October 19, **Fine and Rare Wines** at King Street will feature a number of rare large format offerings, including a methuselah of Romanée-Conti 1983 (estimate: £10,000-12,000); six magnums of Château LaFleur 1947 (estimate: £35,000-45,000) and a magnum of Romanée-Conti 1945 (estimate: £15,000-20,000). And, on October 16, South Kensington will offer **A Superb Private Cellar**, consisting mainly of fine Bordeaux and priced modestly, providing a perfect sale for the private buyer.

### **November 15 - Christie's Geneva**

#### **Fine Wines Including A Magnificent Private Cellar**

The sale, potentially set to be the biggest in Geneva wine sale history, features a large private collection sourced from the depths of a château in Switzerland. With all the wines preserved in optimum conditions, under strict temperature and humidity control, highlights include six full cases

of Guigal's La Turque 1989, two cases of Château Pétrus 1970, four cases of Château Mouton-Rothschild 1982, a case of Château Margaux 1961 and three full cases of Château d'Yquem 1967.

### **19 November - Beaune, France**

#### **146th Wine Auction of the Hospices de Beaune**

Christie's will again conduct the Hospices de Beaune wine auction, the oldest and most famous charity wine sale in the world. The auction is the central event of Burgundy's most spectacular, annual celebration, known as the *Trois Glorieuses*. From the great whites of Meursault and Corton-Charlemagne and reds from Beaune, to Volnay and Pommard, and up to Mazis-Chambertin, estimates start at an appealing €1,500 (or \$1,800; £1,000) for a barrel, which equates to €5 (or \$6; £3.50) a bottle for the wine itself (with additional costs for tending, bottling, etc.). Buyers may incorporate their names, name of business or institution on the Hospices de Beaune label, which lists the appellation and the cuvée.

These annual sales offer trade and private buyers the opportunity to buy top quality young red and white burgundies in their barrels, or en-primeur. When the wines are bottled and delivered in approximately 18 months' time, the same wine is often more expensive on the open market, making this a cost-effective way to acquire top quality wine.

### **November 16 - Christie's London**

#### **Fine & Rare Wines**

The sale will offer an immaculate selection of fine Italian Wines, cigars and vintage port. The Italian single-owner collection has been removed from an ancient cellar in Northern Italy, where the wines have been laying since being purchased on original release, direct from the producers. Among the wines will the fabled Sassicaia, Solaia, Ornellaia and Tignanello from mature vintages.

### **November 28 – Christie's Amsterdam**

#### **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fine & Rare Wines**

To celebrate 30 years of Christie's wine sales in Amsterdam, the auction offers some of the most sought-after wine on the market, including an excellent selection of 1982 Bordeaux, including full cases from Châteaux Latour, Lafite, Mouton-Rothschild and La Mission Haut Brion.

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### **EUROPEAN WINE SALES CALENDAR**

**September – December 2006**

|                       |                            |                          |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tuesday 12 September  | Fine and Rare Wines        | Amsterdam                |
| Monday 18 September   | Fine Wine and Vintage Port | London, South Kensington |
| Thursday 21 September | Fine and Rare Wines        | London, King Street      |
| Thursday 5 October    | 40th Anniversary Sale      | London, King Street      |
| Monday 16 October     | A Superb Private Cellar    | London, South Kensington |
| Thursday 19 October   | Fine and Rare Wines        | London, King Street      |
| Monday 30 October     | Fine Wine and Vintage Port | London, South Kensington |
| Monday 13 November    | Fine Wine and Vintage Port | London, South Kensington |
| Tuesday 14 November   | Fine Wine                  | Geneva                   |
| Thursday 16 November  | Fine and Rare Wines        | London, King Street      |
| Saturday 18 November  | Hospices de Beaune         | Paris                    |
| Tuesday 28 November   | Fine Wines and Spirits     | Paris                    |
| Tuesday 28 November   | Fine and Rare Wines        | Amsterdam                |
| Thursday 7 December   | Finest and Rarest Wines    | London, King Street      |
| Monday 11 December    | Fine Wine and Vintage Port | London, South Kensington |

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For the fourth year in succession, Christie's International Wine Department claimed pole position in the global fine wine auction market in 2005, with an annual sales total of £22,442,905/\$41,968,232. With an unrivalled network stretching across four European nations to both coasts of the United States, Christie's continues to offer collectors the widest and most regular international auction schedule.

43 sales were conducted across nine sale locations – in New York, Los Angeles, London King Street, London South Kensington, Paris, Bordeaux, Burgundy, Geneva and Amsterdam. Uniquely, Christie's remains the only wine auctioneer dedicated to maintaining and expanding such a comprehensive international auction base.