



Contact: Capucine Milliot (Paris) + 33 1 40 76 84 08 cmilliot@christies.com
Rik Pike (New York) +1 212-636-2678 rpik@christies.com

CHRISTIE'S TO HOLD THE FAMOUS HOSPICES DE BEAUNE WINE SALE

The 145th Hospices de Beaune auction will be organised by Christie's, taking place on the 19th and 20th of November 2005. Following a public tender, Christie's has been chosen to conduct the annual sale, towards which the eyes of the world have turned each autumn, since 1859. In addition to the traditional offerings of the young wines of the year in barrel, the sale will include for the first time a Selection from the Personal Reserves of the Hospices.

François Curiel, Chairman of Christie's Europe, declares: "It is a great honor for Christie's to have been selected to conduct the auction of wines from the world famous Hospices de Beaune. Wine is intrinsically linked to Christie's history since the content of a cellar was part of our firm's inaugural auction in 1766. More than 200 years later, we look forward to holding this landmark auction in Beaune and to paying tribute to a great institution of worldwide repute."

David Elswood, Head of Christie's International Wine Department states: "Christie's Wine Department is proud to announce this exciting collaboration with the Hospices de Beaune in a dynamic initiative to widen the appeal of this magnificent charitable auction. As the world's leading auction house for wine, we look forward to many positive synergies in the new partnership."

Inaugurated in 1859, the Hospices de Beaune auction is considered to be the most famous charity auction in the world. All proceeds from the sale benefit the modernisation of existing establishments and medical equipment, and the conservation of the Hospices's historic buildings and works of art.

Wine sold in bottle

Saturday 19 November 2005 at 3 pm

Since 1859, the Hospices de Beaune has always offered young wine for auction in cask. In parallel with the traditional Sunday sale, and for the first time in the history of the Hospices Auction, on Saturday 19 November Christie's will organise a disposal of Hospices wines in bottle. These bottles and magnums will come from the Personal Reserves of the Hospices, and were originally destined for internal use. This represents an exceptional opportunity for collectors to acquire rare vintages from great origins, including :

- 2000 Bâtard-Montrachet, Cuvée Dames de Flandre*
- 2000 Beaune 1er Cru, Cuvée Guigone de Salins*
- 1999 Corton rouge, Cuvée Charlotte Dumay*
- 1996 Mazis-Chambertin, Cuvée Madeleine Collignon*
- 1995 Volnay-Santenots, Cuvée Gauvain*
- 1993 Pommard, Cuvée Billardet*
- 1992 Corton-Charlemagne, Cuvée Francois de Salins*
- 1990 Meursault-Genervrières, Cuvée Baudot*
- 1982 Beaune 1er Cru, Cuvée Nicolas Rolin*

Wine sold in Cask

Sunday 20 November at 14.30

Following the vinification, the Hospices decide upon the quantity of wine to be offered in the auction. Each cuvee is divided into lots of approximately 228 litres, depending upon the abundance of the harvest.

The tending of the wines in barrel is followed by their bottling, to be carried out between 12 and 24 months after the sale. Each barrel, after maturation, yields 288 bottles (24 cases of 12 bottles or of 6 magnums) which will carry the label of the Hospices, mentioning the buyer's name. Wines being proposed to collectors will include Côte de Beaune reds (Corton, Pommard, Volnay, Beaune Premier Cru...) and whites (Bâtard-Montrachet, Corton-Charlemagne, Meursault...), along with Grand Cru reds from the Côte de Nuits (Mazis-Chambertin and Clos de la Roche).

Anthony Hanson, Master of Wine, International Wine Department Consultant, declares: “In the world of wine, this is an event without equivalent. There is nothing comparable in Bordeaux, in Australia, in Champagne, or elsewhere in Europe. Although there are great charity wine auctions in America, they do not have the same appeal internationally. The sale of the Hospices de Beaune remains unique. Having just spent a week in Burgundy while the harvest began, it is possible to say without risk that the Hospices wines in 2005 will be exceptional. Thanks to the traditional generosity of the bidders and to the fine quality I am confident buyers will encounter, we believe this sale will be a great success.”

Christie’s role will be harmoniously to combine tradition with modernity. The sale has been sustained since its creation by the traditional Burgundian tender-bottlers (Négociant-éleveurs), and by generous donations. This year, there will be two ways in which private buyers can take part in the sale. They can contact Burgundian négociants-éleveurs in the normal way, for details of tending and bottling charges, and instruct them to bid, on their behalf, at the auction. Or, they can send their bids to Christie’s directly. After the sale, Christie’s and the Hospices will advise the purchaser on where to age and bottle the wine. The Buyer’s Premium will be 15% for the bottled wine and 6% for the wine purchased in cask.

History of Wine Sales at Christie’s

On the 7th December 1766 James Christie organised his first sale in London, notably including a large collection of wines. Since then, Christie’s has never ceased to conduct wine sales. Internationally today we organise over 50 wine sales annually, grossing 34 million USD in 2004. Christie’s continues to dominate the worldwide market of wine and spirit auctions with regular sales in Amsterdam, Bordeaux, Geneva, London, Los Angeles, New York and Paris.

Christie’s holds significant records in wine auction history

By quantity:

In London on the 11th of July 1974 Christie’s auctions a record half a million bottles belonging to Bass Charington.

By value:

On the 18th of September 1977 in London, 100% of the wine offered in the sale of “A Magnificent Private Cellar” was sold totalling 10.8 million USD and establishing a world record for a single day’s wine auction.

By lot:

On the 16th of June 1994 in London, a lot containing various vintages achieves 635,800 USD.

In New York on the 4th June 2004 a 12 bottle case of Romanée-Conti 1934 from the exceptional cellar of Doris Duke realised \$111,625.

Sales at the Hospices de Beaune

-Wine sold in bottle Saturday 19 November 2005 at 3pm

-Wine sold in Cask Sunday 20 November 2005 at 2.30pm

Press Office: Hospices de Beaune:

Elisabeth Ebel: +33 (0)1 58 05 10 70

<http://www.beaune.com>