

**For Immediate Release**

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## **LA DOLCE VITA**

### **Sparkling Treasures from a Private Milanese Palazzo at Christie's London in December**



**The Carraro Rizzoli Collection**  
**Christie's King Street**  
**Thursday, 14 December 2006 at 10.30am**

**London** – Christie's King Street will play host to a spectacular collection of treasures from a Milanese Palazzo with the sale of **The Carraro Rizzoli Collection** on 14 December 2006. Comprising over 400 lots of important Italian, English and French furniture as well as Chinese monochrome porcelains, rare tapestries and rock crystal chandeliers, this sale will ignite the enthusiasm of collectors, decorators and museums around the world and is estimated in the region of £2 million.

The Carraro Rizzoli Palazzo, one of the last to survive as a private house in Milan, provides a fascinating insight into the glamorous world of Federico Fellini's inner circle in the 1960s. From the Rizzoli publishing dynasty, established by Angelo Rizzoli which exists to this day and includes RCS publications such as *Il Mondo*, grew a vast family empire which encompassed cinema, football and the island of Ischia.

As a film producer, Angelo is perhaps best remembered for his close working relationship with Federico Fellini, producing the *Don Camillo* series and most famously, *La Dolce Vita* in 1960 with Marcello Mastroianni and Anita Eckberg. In football, as Chairman of AC Milan, Andrea Rizzoli, had the privilege of seeing the first Italian team lift an International Champions Cup at Wembley in 1963. In Ischia, Angelo and his wife embraced both commercial and philanthropic ventures – from hotels such as the *Il Regina Isabella*, where Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton tempestuously stayed during the filming of *Cleopatra* in 1961, to charitable causes and a new hospital.

The Carraro Rizzoli Palazzo was bought by Angelo's newly-wed daughter Giuseppina Rizzoli in 1958. Mirroring the opulent grandeur portrayed by Fellini in *La Dolce Vita*, the young couple embarked on a comprehensive redecoration lead by architects Filippo Perego and Menin. Filling their house with treasures of the finest quality from around the world, the sale includes a pair of North European ormolu-mounted Swedish Porphyry vases and covers, *circa* 1790 (estimate: £40,000-60,000) and spectacular gilt-bronze and rock crystal chandeliers from Turin (estimate: £40,000-60,000), both which are highly sought-after and beloved by Russian connoisseurs.

Leading the collection is the magnificent series of Berlin tapestries depicting Scenes from the life of the Emperor of China, almost certainly KangXi (1661-1722). Woven to designs by Jean-Baptiste Monnoyer and Jean-Baptiste Belin de Fontenay in 1720, they are amongst the finest surviving examples of this rich and important series (estimates range from £80,000 to £180,000). Their brilliant colouring has survived undisturbed, having been lit only by candelabra supported on a magnificent set of four George II torches of *circa* 1750 (estimate: £60,000-100,000).

Filing the study were Chinese monochrome porcelains which were arranged in niches and on brackets throughout the enfilade (estimates range from £500 to £5,000) and fine leather bound books (estimates range from £200 to £6,000). The dining-room was adorned with silver and old master paintings including a pair of Italian river landscapes, after 1753, by Giovanni Battista Cimaroli (estimate: £50,000-70,000) and a set of three Charles II silver gilt furnishing vases and covers, *circa* 1680 (estimate: £25,000-40,000).

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*A selection of images is available on request*

## **Notes to Editors**

### **The Carraro Rizzoli Collection: Treasures from a Milanese Palazzo**

**Pre Sale Viewing:** 10-13 December 2006

**Auction:** 14 December 2006 at 10:30 am

8 King Street, St James's, London, SW1Y 6QT

#### **About Christie's**

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global sales in 2005 that totaled \$3.2 billion. It is a name and place that speaks of extraordinary art, unparalleled service, and international glamour. Founded in 1766 by James Christie, Christie's conducted the greatest auctions of the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, and today remains a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful.

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