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CHRISTIE'S

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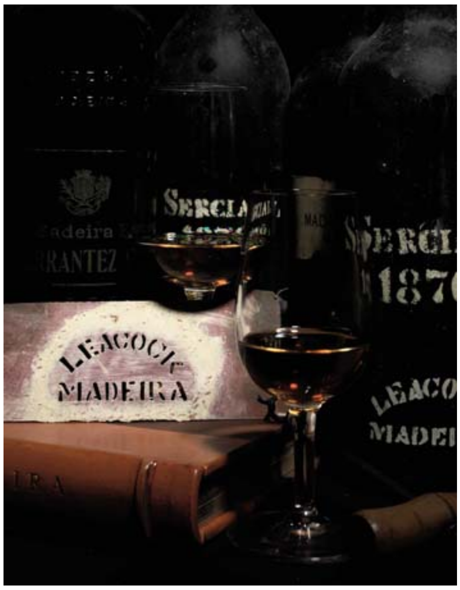
A SUPERB SELECTION OF MADEIRA TO BE OFFERED AT CHRISTIE'S IN LONDON THIS DECEMBER



London – Christie's London will hold its last wine sale of 2008 on Thursday December 11, and the 960-lot auction features a unique range of finest and rarest Madeira from the Funchal cellar of William Leacock. Over 180 lots of Madeira will be offered at the beginning of the auction, with the wines representing the major part of the private collection of William Leacock, the last family head of Leacock and Co. before it was acquired by the Madeira Wine Company in 1981. The Collection represents the finest selection of Madeira to be offered at auction for many years, and estimates range from £120 to £1,800.

Chris Munro, Head of Wine Sales, Christie's London, says: "We are honoured to be offering this impressive collection of Madeira, one of the greatest and most storied wines of the world. All the bottles were removed by Christie's Wine Department staff, from the underground cellars of Mr Leacock's impressive Funchal mansion and shipped to London by sea in the manner of so many previous exports over the last half-millennium."

The history and development of Madeira wines over the last 500 years are inextricably linked with England. Numerous references to Madeira and Malmsey specifically are to be found in the manuscripts of William Shakespeare and Customs House records indicate that the export of wines from the island were already widespread into England, mainland Europe and even the New World by the 1550's and 1560's.

When Charles II married the sister of King Alfonso VII of Portugal in 1662, the link to these islands was strengthened and by the mid 1700's, the first fledgling companies with UK connections were being founded by entrepreneurs newly arrived in Madeira - notably John Leacock who first came in 1741 and began trading under his own name in 1760.

The Leacock family continued to run their business through successive generations. Thomas Slapp Leacock took control in 1877, he the great-grandfather of William Leacock who has consigned this collection for sale.

A range of ten of the oldest and most interesting wines from the Leacock cellars will be featured in a tutored Masterclass tasting lead by Michael Broadbent M.W. to be held on December 4th at our King Street salerooms.

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Images available on request
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About Christie's
Christie's is the world's leading art business with global art sales in 2007 that totaled £3.1 billion/$6.3 billion. This marks the highest total in company and in art auction history. For the first half of 2008, art sales totaled £1.8 billion / $3.5 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 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai, Hong Kong and Zurich. Most 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