

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

For Immediate Release

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**RAISE YOUR SPIRITS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AT CHRISTIE'S
First Auction of Spirits to be held in New York Since Prohibition**



**Fine Wines and Spirits
December 8**

New York - Following a change of regulation for the State of New York in August of this year, Christie's announced plans to hold the first liquor auction in New York since Prohibition began in 1920. The Christie's International Wine Department now announces full details of this historic auction and will conduct the sale as part of its December 8 *Fine Wines and Spirits* offering at its Rockefeller Galleries in midtown New York.

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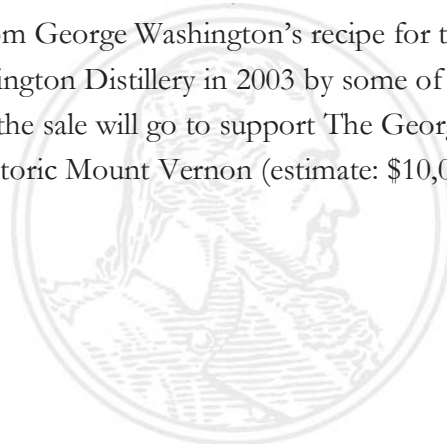
Since the change in law, Christie's accepted consignments of vintage cognac, armagnac, whiskies and other traditional spirits to ensure an exceptional selection for the upcoming sale. Over 100 lots of spirits will be offered, sourced from the best collections in America, and include 1811 cognacs named for Napoléon, an incredible wealth of The Macallan whisky, Erté Collection cognac, Coeur de Lion calvados, Chartreuse and 18th century Crème de Thé. Estimates for the spirits section range from \$300 to \$100,000, and in its entirety, the spirits selection is expected to realize in the region of \$250,000.

Richard Brierley, Head of Wine Sales, Christie's Americas, says: "We are delighted to bring to the New York market the first selection of spirits to be offered at auction since Prohibition. We have been holding such sales in Europe for over a decade, and among the most sought-after bottles by international collectors are the very best spirits, both traditional French and whiskies. At the forefront of the international markets, Christie's is best placed to source the finest examples for this inaugural New York sale, offered to the public at the start of this year's holiday season."

"Christie's has put together an outstanding collection of rare distilled spirits for this historic auction," said Distilled Spirits Council President Peter Cressy, whose organization lobbied in support of the new law. "New York is the global trend-setter, and it's entirely fitting that the law was changed to permit spirits auctions in the state."

Select Highlights

- A bottle of 1926 Macallan, one of the world's most expensive whiskies. Bottled in 1986 after spending a remarkable sixty years in wood barrel (estimate: \$20,000-30,000). Along with the bottle of 1926, a number of other remarkable Macallan's will be offered, from the 1930s to the 1970s - all of these whiskies were bottled at the distillery.
- A Scottish whisky Superlot: an incredible one time offering of over seven hundred individual bottlings of single malts, vatted and blended whiskies (estimate: \$70,000-100,000). This roll call of great distilleries offers any buyer a comprehensive Scotch library, sourced from one collector's work over three decades.
- A bottle of straight rye whiskey made from George Washington's recipe for the first time in 200 years, produced at the George Washington Distillery in 2003 by some of America's leading master distillers. Proceeds from the sale will go to support The George Washington Orientation and Education Center at Historic Mount Vernon (estimate: \$10,000-20,000).



- A select offering of the fine cognacs, including a bottle of Cognac Grande Fine Champagne named for Impératrice Josephine 1811 (\$4,000-6,000); and the Napoleon Cognac of the legendary Halley's comet vintage of 1811 (estimate: \$3,000-5,000).

About Christie's

Christie's is the world's leading art business with global auction sales in 2006 that totalled £2.51 billion / \$4.67 billion. Worldwide sales for the first half of 2007 totalled £1.63 billion / \$3.25 billion, an increase of 32% by £ and 45% by \$ from the same period last year and highest half year sales ever in art market history. Christie's 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 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 \$600 to over \$80 million. Christie's has 85 offices in 43 countries and 14 salerooms around the world including London, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Dubai and Hong Kong. Most recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in emerging markets such as China, India and the United Arab Emirates, with successful sales and exhibitions in Beijing, Dubai, Mumbai and Russia. Christie's also offers its clients worldwide access to its sales through Christie's LIVE™, its unique, real-time online bidding service.

*Estimates do not include buyer's premium

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Images available on request

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