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CHRISTIE'S LEADS THE GLOBAL FINE WINE AUCTION MARKET IN 2005

**Both Europe and North America Report Positive Sale Growth in 2005
New Alliances Formed With Hospices De Beaune, VinExpo And Langton's
A Return To Asia Planned For 2006**

New York, London – For the fourth year in succession, Christie's International Wine Department claims pole position in the global fine wine auction market, 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.

As a sign of this continued commitment, Christie's announced in 2005 a major global expansion to its network, joining forces with Langton's, Australia's premier wine auction house, to strengthen a 15 year alliance and co-market an auction in Asia in the Spring of 2006. Langton's totaled AUD\$15,090,000/£6,109,312 in 2005, and Christie's looks forward to incorporating Langton's into its reporting in 2006.

33 sales were held in Europe in 2005 totaling £14,085,369/€20,282,931. The top lot of the year was a 12-bottle case of 1961 Hermitage, La Chapelle that fetched £41,800.

European highlights included a new partnership with the Hospices de Beaune - with their 145th auction in November organised by Christie's; a London sale of Pétrus and Latour sourced directly from the Châteaux cellars; the auction of the late Alan Clark M.P's wine cellar in September; and an auction return to VinExpo in June.

Christie's Americas held 10 sales in 2005 which totaled \$15,628,592/£8,357,536. The top lot of the year was a 24-half-bottle case of 1947 Château Cheval-Blanc that realized \$88,125.

American highlights included the shift to Saturday sales in early 2005 – a format that has been warmly welcomed by clients and has encouraged new buyers; the \$3.2 million September New York auction – the best sale result for any various-owner wine sale at Christie's for six years; and the immaculate Lee Kramer cellar sale in Los Angeles that was 97% sold.

David Elswood, International Head of the Wine Department, says: "I am delighted that Christie's has retained its prime position as the world's leading auction house for wine. Our global sales total and unrivalled auction programme - further strengthened by key partnerships with NY Wines, the Hospices de Beaune, VinExpo and Langton's - puts a huge distance between Christie's and its competitors. A number of exciting single owner sales are already confirmed for 2006 and we approach the 240th anniversary of Christies (1766) and the 40th anniversary of Christie's Wine Department (1966) with continued enthusiasm and expectation."

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