

## For Immediate Release

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Contact:      *Benedetta Roux, New York*                      212.636.2680                      [broux@christies.com](mailto:broux@christies.com)  
                    *Rik Pike, London*    44.20.7321.3120                      [rpike@christies.com](mailto:rpike@christies.com)

### **CHRISTIE'S DOMINATES THE INTERNATIONAL FINE WINE AUCTION MARKET, REINFORCING ITS POSITION AS THE WORLD'S LEADING WINE AUCTIONEER IN 2002**

*New York, London – Christie's International Wine department announces a worldwide sales total of \$32,893,509/£20,622,890 for 2002. Impressive and consistent results from 34 sales in seven sales venues across the United States and Europe confirm Christie's preeminent position as the world's leading wine auctioneer. On the eve of 2003, Christie's is placed solidly at the forefront of the international fine wine auction market with a challenging year ahead.*

*Supported by an unrivalled sales network that enables Christie's to open its doors to wine buyers on both Coasts of the United States as well as in five different locations in Europe, the Christie's International Wine department has endorsed its reputation as a first class service team, ensuring outstanding expertise and a year-round offer of top quality wines. The internet has also significantly contributed to the strong results. The monthly on-line wine newsletter is gaining in popularity daily and the ability to source wine and place bids using the LotFinder feature is becoming more and more prominent.*

*During the course of 2002, the Wine department has also held a number of prestigious Masterclasses, strengthening its reputation as an invaluable guide in the wine auction world. These have included the May Masterclass in New York conducted by the passionate director of Château Pétrus, Christian Moneix; the Italian Masterclass that took place in London in October and the highly appreciated Château Latour Masterclass organized in Paris this month.*

*Having rounded the first full year of association with the wine retailer New York Wine Warehouse, Christie's North American Wine department saw a combined result for its sales in New York and Los Angeles of \$15,595,087/£9,777,484. Amongst the stellar lots of the year, Burgundy often dominated; a dozen bottles of Romanée-Conti – Vintage 1978 sold for \$69,000 in September at Rockefeller Center while during the Los Angeles sale in June, 10 bottles of the 1962 Vintage of the same wine achieved \$55,200.*

*“The New York wine market especially experienced a vigorous increase in auction activity this year. However, the unwavering dedication of the North American Wine team, reflected in a strong total sales figure, put NYWinesChristie's decidedly ahead of the other major players in the American wine auction field,” said Richard Brierley, Head of North American Wine Sales.*

*In Europe, 2002 was a memorable year full of celebrations for the Wine department. In the first half of the year, both the South Kensington and Geneva salesrooms held their best-ever sales since their beginnings in the mid-1970s. In September Christie's held its first wine sale in its Paris salerooms – the encouraging result of this inaugural sale was the biggest wine sale total achieved by any auctioneer in France in 2002. A second sale followed in December with record prices for the cellar of the Duke of Windsor. In London, the department celebrated Michael Broadbent's 50 years in the wine trade, with a successful Tribute Sale at King Street in October.*

*David Elswood, Director and Head of European Wine Sales commented: “Christie's totaled £10,845,406/€16,853,760 in Europe this year; twice that of our nearest competitor. With ever-increasing competition globally in the wine auction market both on and off-line, Christie's continues to dominate and lead the market in Europe and we have every reason to celebrate. 2003 will offer many new challenges – with our regional salesroom network well-established, coupled with our developing presence in Paris, we look forward to the New Year with confidence.”*

*Anthony Hanson, Master of Wine and Senior Consultant of the International Wine department said: “The superb results achieved around the globe could not have been realized without the outstanding commitment of all of our worldwide team. Consistent and exceptional service to our clients, both vendors and buyers, continues to be our goal and we shall strive to maintain our high level of client focus and expertise throughout 2003. It looks like a year in which buyers will be out in force, so we look forward to offering the best marketplace for Fine and Rare Wine.”*

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