

For Immediate Release
18 February 2010

Press Release

CHRISTIE'S

Contact Leonie Ashfield

020 7752 3121

lashfield@christies.com

CHRISTIE'S LONDON FINE AND RARE WINE SALE IN MARCH TO OFFER A SUPERB EUROPEAN COLLECTION



Château Lafite Rothschild 1985
Estimate: £2,000-3,000 per
Impériale



A selection of bottles on offer



Monfortino Riserva 1955
Giacomo Conterno
Estimate: £2,000-3,000 per 12
litre bottle

London – The first wine sale to take place at Christie's in London in 2010 is sure to start the season in spectacular fashion. *Fine and Rare Wines Including a Superb European Collection* will take place at King Street on Thursday, 25th March 2010 comprising over 450 lots, and is an event not to be missed by wine connoisseurs and enthusiasts alike.

Chris Munro, Director, Wine Department, Christie's comments: *"Christie's March Fine & Rare Wine sale represents an amazing opportunity to purchase rare wine from a Superb European Collection. On offer is a unique collection of Fine Bordeaux, Burgundy and rare Italian wines recently removed from a notable Private Cellar in Italy - and featuring an unprecedented 17 vintages of Giacomo Conterno's flagship Barolo, Monfortino. Ranging from the 1937 vintage through to 1982 and including full dozens of the 1955 (£3,000-3600 per case) - the 1961 (£2,400-3,000 per case) - the 1968 (£3,000-3,600 per case) - and the 1971 (£3,000-3,600 per case) vintages."*

The leading highlight of the sale is an extensive selection of Barolo from the European Collection – a vibrant and full-bodied wine that has been produced in the Piedmont region of north-western Italy for centuries by The Giacomo Conterno estate. Using traditional winemaking techniques, Giacomo Conterno produces arguably one of the world's best expressions of the Nebbiolo grape, the Barolo Monfortino Riserva which is only produced in exceptional vintages. This signature wine requires considerable bottle ageing to evolve, and featured in the sale are a number of outstanding vintages: 1952, 1955 *illustrated above*, 1958, 1961, 1964, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1974, 1978, 1979 and 1982.

Also forming part of the European Collection on offer, is an impressive assortment of large format wines, including magnums, double magnums, jeroboams and impériale bottles. Not only are these bottles a sight

to behold, but they also extend the ageing ability of the wines within. Rarer than your average wine bottle, these large formats feature a larger air space (ullage) in the neck of the bottle, which increases the oxygen level and in turn helps the ageing process. Examples offered in the sale of the largest, impériale format include: Yquem 1982, 1983; Lafite 1985; Cheval Blanc 1970 and Mouton Rothschild 1970.

#

Further information and interviews available on request
Visit Christie's on the web at www.christies.com

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

Auction: *Fine & Rare Wines Including a Superb European Collection* – Thursday, 25 March 2010 at 10.30am & 2.30pm

Notes to Editors:

About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business had global auction and private sales in 2009 that totaled £2.1 billion/\$3.3 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 450 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 53 offices in 30 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai and Hong Kong. More 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.