

CHRISTIE'S

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2012 : A RECORD YEAR AT CHRISTIE'S GENEVA AUCTIONS TOTALLED SFr. 248 million / \$ 264 million

THE NOVEMBER WEEK OF SALES
Totalled SFr. 112 million / US\$ 118 million



THE J.B. CHAMPION PATEK PHILIPPE
A unique platinum chronometer wristwatch
ref. 2458
SFr. 3,779,000 / \$3,990,624 / €3,312,217.9
**WORLD AUCTION RECORD
FOR A WRISTWATCH
WITHOUT COMPLICATIONS**



THE ARCHDUKE JOSEPH DIAMOND
A cushion-shaped D colour internally flawless
Golconda diamond of 76.02 cts
SFr. 20,355,000 / \$21,474,525 / €16,894,650
(US\$282,545 per carat)
**WORLD AUCTION RECORD
FOR A COLOURLESS DIAMOND**



A RARE VERTICAL OF YQUEM
From 1900 to 2000
Sauternes, 1er grand cru classé
Above 92 bottles
SFr.230,000 / \$243,800 / €191,360

Geneva - Christie's November auctions of jewellery, watches and wine in Geneva realised an overall total of SFr.112,100,355 / US\$118,315,125 which combined with the May sales results adds up to SFr.248,345,071 / US\$264,069,154, the highest annual result ever achieved at Christie's Geneva.

On 12 November, the 'Important Watches' auction fetched SFr. 27,042,825 / \$28,557,223 / €22,445,545, selling 96% by lot and 97% by value and setting numerous world record prices.

The auction of 'Magnificent Jewels' was offered on November 13 and realised SFr.80,615,930 / US\$85,049,806 / €66,991,837, selling 84% by lot and 86% by value.

On November 13 and 14, the sales of 'Venerable Spirits and Fine Cigars from a Famous Private Collection' and of 'Fine and Rare Wines' achieved a combined total of SFr.4,441,600 / \$4,708,096 / €3,695,411, selling 88% by lot and 94% by value.

The top lot of the Geneva season was the legendary 'Archduke Joseph Diamond' which sold for SFr. 20,355,000 / \$21,474,525, setting a world record price for a colourless diamond at auction.

Eveline de Proyart, Managing Director of Christie's Geneva: "The exceptional results achieved at Christie's Geneva this autumn conclude a record year for the saleroom. Such an unprecedented success shows the market's recognition of the rarity and quality of the lots offered at a variety of price levels. Our international team of specialists gathered the best of the best for each category, presenting rigorously curated catalogues including excellent Royal and rock provenances. This year we have also been entrusted with a larger than ever number of private collections whose taste and vision attracted the interest of a truly global audience".

IMPORTANT WATCHES

INCLUDING

A GENTLEMAN'S PURSUIT FOR EXCELLENCE, PART I

12 November 2012 (Sale 1391)

TOTAL: SFr.27,042,825 / \$28,557,223 / €22,445,545

On 12 November, Christie's auction of Important Watches in Geneva fetched a **total** of **SFr. 27,042,825 / \$28,557,223 / €22,445,545**, selling 96% by lot and 97% by value and setting numerous world record prices. The exceptionally rare platinum perpetual calendar chronograph wristwatch with moon phases, ref.2499/100, manufactured by Patek Philippe in 1987 and offered from the collection of Eric Clapton, sold for SFr.3,443,000 (\$3,635,808 / €2,857,690), setting a world record price for this reference at auction (*illustrated right*). The **top price** of the sale was paid for the **J.B. Champion Platinum Observatory Chronometer**, a unique platinum chronometer wristwatch, ref.2458, which was specially manufactured by Patek Philippe for J.B. Champion, the legendary American watch collector, in 1952. This historically important timepiece realized **SFr.3,779,000** (\$3,990,624 / €3,136,570), setting a world auction record for a watch without complications (*illustrated on page 1*). World record prices were also set for numerous references and models in the following categories: Patek Philippe, Rolex, Omega, antique and 20th century enamels, decorative watches and contemporary watches.



Aurel Bacs, International Head of Christie's Watch Department, commented: “Christie's auction of Important Watches in Geneva performed extremely well, demonstrating great consistency at all levels in terms of watches, prices and clients. In a broad, healthy and ever growing market, where buyers demand expertise and scholarship, we offered once again the finest selection of watches and wristwatches. A packed saleroom, today's seven-hour marathon auction welcomed some 500 registrants from five continents, generating stellar sell-through rates as well as breaking numerous records. Collectors, public and private museums, the trade and also an investment watch fund, battled out the bidding for the best watches seen at auction this season, reconfirming Christie's market leadership in every horological category. This is our recipe: sourcing top quality properties, pricing them accurately, presenting them to the right audience, in the right place, at the right time”.

GENEVA MAGNIFICENT JEWELS

13 November 2012 (Sale 1393)

TOTAL: SFr.80,615,930 / US\$85,049,806 / €66,991,837



On November 13, Christie's Geneva auction of Magnificent Jewels realised a **total** of **SFr.80,615,930 / US\$85,049,806 / €66,991,837**, selling 84% by lot and 86% by value. This extraordinary result, combined with the total achieved for the category in May, concludes the most successful year for Christie's Jewellery department in Switzerland, with annual sales exceeding SFr.183.9 million (US\$195.2 million).

The **top lot** of the sale was the historical 76.02 carats cushion-shaped **Archduke Joseph Diamond** which sold for **SFr.20,355,000** (US\$21,474,525 / €16,894,650; or US\$282,545 per carat), setting a new world record at auction for a colourless diamond (lot 350; *illustrated on page 1*). A world record price was also achieved for a Ceylon sapphire, when

an antique 60.44 carats Ceylon sapphire and diamond brooch sold for SFr.1,763,000 (\$1,859,965 / €1,463,290; or \$26,000 per carat) (lot 349; *illustrated left*).

François Curiel, President of Christie's Switzerland and International Director of Christie's Jewellery Department, said: “In the busiest saleroom witnessed at the Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues in Geneva in recent years, the Archduke Joseph Diamond of 76 carats sold for \$21.5 million, a world record price per carat for a colourless diamond. The historical gem led Christie's jewellery auction which totalled \$85 million dollars”.

Rahul Kadakia, Head of Jewellery, Christie's Switzerland and the Americas, added: “On November 13 the legendary ‘Archduke Joseph Diamond’ sold for US\$21,474,525 / SFr.20,355,000 (US\$280,000 per carat) at Christie's Geneva, setting a new world record for a colourless diamond at auction. Undoubtedly one of the rarest and most famous diamonds in the world, this magnificent gem combines an impressive size of 76 carats, perfect colour, and internally flawless clarity. Originating from the ancient Golconda mines in India, it was previously owned by the Archduke Joseph August of Austria (1872-1962). It was first sold at auction at Christie's Geneva in 1993 for \$6.5 million (\$10.1 million in today's money), which represents a 113% increase over a 19 year period”.



**VENERABLE SPIRITS AND FINE CIGARS
FROM A FAMOUS PRIVATE COLLECTION**
13 November 2012 (Sale 4001)

FINE AND RARE WINES
14 November 2012 (Sale 1392)

COMBINED TOTAL: SFr.4,441,600 / \$4,708,096 / €3,695,411

Christie's Geneva November sales of 'Venerable Spirits and Fine Cigars from a Famous Private Collection' and of 'Fine and Rare Wines' achieved a combined total of **SFr.4,441,600 / \$4,708,096 / €3,695,411**, selling 88% by lot and 94% by value.

A rare vertical of Yquem from 1900 to 2000 sold for **SFr.230,000** (\$243,800 / €191,360), against an estimate of SFr. 150,000-200,000, becoming the most valuable lot of this Autumn sale (sale 1392, lot 151; *illustrated on page 1*).

A rare bottle of Grande Fine Champagne made by Saulnier Frères in 1789 - the year of the French Revolution - sold for SFr.27,600 (\$29,256) (sale 4001, lot 119; *illustrated above*).

David Elswood, International Head of Christie's Wine Department, declared: "*We are very happy with the final result of our latest Geneva auctions - following 3 sessions of sales over 2 days and a total of more than 1,100 lots - achieving a sold rate of 94% and total of Sfr.4,441,600. Over 100 registered bidders from 19 countries competed for a wide range of exquisite wines, featuring the finest d'Yquem, Burgundy and venerable old Cognacs. Top d'Yquem lot was a 92 bottle vertical offering every vintage of the 20th Century which sold for SFr.230,000; taking Burgundian gold was a 3 bottle lot of Richebourg 1978 direct from the family cellar of the descendants of legendary winemaker, Henri Jayer, which sold for SFr.80,500; while the oldest Cognac on offer, a Saulnier Frères 1789, distilled in the year of the French Revolution, achieved a top price of SFr.27,600*".

NEXT CHRISTIE'S SALES IN GENEVA WILL TAKE PLACE IN MAY 2013

Monday 13 May 2013	Important Watches
Tuesday 14 May 2013	Fine and Rare Wine
Wednesday 15 May 2013	Magnificent Jewels

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About Christie's

Christie's, the world's leading art business, had global auction and private sales in the first half of 2012 that totaled £2.2 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 has since conducted the greatest and most celebrated auctions through the centuries providing a popular showcase for the unique and the beautiful. Christie's offers over 450 auctions 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 \$100 million. Christie's also has a long and successful history conducting private sales for its clients in all categories, with emphasis on Post-War and Contemporary, Impressionist and Modern, Old Masters and Jewellery. Private sales totaled £413.4 million/ \$661.5 million in the first half of 2012, an increase of 53% on the previous year.

Christie's has a global presence with 53 offices in 32 countries and 10 salerooms around the world including in London, New York, Paris, Geneva, Milan, Amsterdam, Dubai, Zürich, and Hong Kong. More recently, Christie's has led the market with expanded initiatives in growth 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. Sales totals are hammer price plus buyer's premium and do not reflect costs, financing fees or application of buyer's or seller's credits.*

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