

FINE AND RARE WINES, SPIRITS AND VINTAGE PORT SOTHEBY'S LONDON - WEDNESDAY MAY 19, 1999

SOTHEBY'S TO AUCTION GREAT WINES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC IN MAY

Sotheby's most important wine sale to date in London and "The Ultimate Millennium Superlot" in New York are the twin highlights of wine sales on both sides of the Atlantic in May.

SERENA SUTCLIFFE MW, Head of Sotheby's International Wine Department, describes the sale in London on May 19 as "the most important to date this year". She said: "This is a sale of classics and originals, wine for drinking now and others to leave hibernating for many years to come. Some great private cellars are the source of much of this sale providing, among others, some of St Emilion and Pomerol's most desirable wines".

From an important Belgian family cellar are some stunning wines all of which have been stored in perfect conditions since the 1950s. Examples include 23 bottles of Vieux Château Certan 1947 estimated at £170/200 per bottle; 22 bottles of Château Pétrus 1964 estimated at £150/200 per bottle; 54 bottles of Château Cheval Blanc 1964 estimated at £150/200 per bottle and 40 bottles of Château La Fleur Pétrus 1966 estimated at £45/55 per bottle.

Fabulous Claret is the core of another private cellar. The Claret comprises First Growths, Super Seconds, and top St Emilion and Pomerols from 1983 to 1994, and much of it in large formats: magnums, double magnums, jeroboams and imperials. Château Cheval Blanc 1947 is one of the many stars in this illustrious line-up and there are 10 bottles of this legendary wine which will be sold in lots of one or two bottles (est: £1,500/2,000 per bottle or est: £3,000/4,000 for two bottles). Equally special is a magnum of the deceptively powerful, "vinous heaven" Château Pétrus 1961 (est: £3,500/4,500) and a range of Château Pétrus, including double magnums from the 1982 (est: £3,000/4,000 per double magnum) and 1990 vintages (est: £2,500/3,500 per double magnum). Also of interest are five consecutive vintages of Château de Valandraud from 1991 to 1995. Other cellars have offered comprehensive selections of top Claret from the 1980s and 1990s.

In addition there are superb sweet Loire wines shipped especially for the auction from the cellars of Château de Fesles in the Loire valley among them superb Bonnezeaux 1997, considered by Serena Sutcliffe MW to be "one of the greatest sweet wines ever produced" (est: £800/1,000 per doz hf.lts). This exceptional sale also includes a selection of Condrieu and Hermitage from the 1996 and 1997 vintages from Delas Frères, as well as parcels of Vintage Port from 1977 to 1983 and rare Cognac from the renowned A E Dor House.

SOTHEBY'S WITH SHERRY-LEHMANN NEW YORK - SATURDAY MAY 22, 1999 FINEST AND RAREST WINES including the Millennium Superlot

SOTHEBY'S with Sherry-Lehmann in New York will offer wine connoisseurs the "Ultimate Millennium Superlot" of the Finest and Rarest Wines on Saturday May 22. The Superlot, which includes Champagne, Burgundy, and Bordeaux, all of impeccable provenance (est. \$175,000-250,000), is a hedonist's jewel-box of wine mythology - an instant Millennium Cellar. This terrific assortment of 17 cases of wine comes from the cellar of private collector George Zicarelli.

The successful buyer could toast the Millennium with a bottle of Champagne from one of the four cases of Krug Clos du Mesnil 1985, produced exclusively from a single plot called Clos du Mesnil and known for its longevity. Produced in the village of Mesnil-sur-Oger, this vineyard has been completely enclosed by walls since 1698 and is now surrounded by the village. It is the ultimate all-Chardonnay Champagne.

The Superlot also includes five cases of Chateau Haut-Brion 1989, one of the most heralded wines of the century, and "simply a compelling wine, the result of wonderful weather, an early harvest, stunning wine-making and a gift from the Gods" said Serena Sutcliffe, Master of Wine, Senior Director Sotheby's International Wine Department. One case of Chateau Petrus 1990, a benchmark wine regarded by many as the finest Pétrus since the legendary 1961, will also be offered.

Red and White Burgundy salutes the Millennium with a dazzling assortment. Included are five cases of Romanée-Conti 1990, the standard bearer of all red burgundy. Full cases of this wine are no longer released from the Domaine

and are exceptionally rare. Rarer still is the opportunity to acquire five cases. Also offered are one case Montrachet 1992 from Domaine Ramonet which maintains its cult following and one case Montrachet 1992 from Domaine Comtes Lafon of which only 100 cases were produced.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR MAY 22, 1999

This sale also offers a fantastic selection of large format bottlings including a phenomenal 1982 Great Growth Imperial Super Lot (est. \$50/60,000) which features imperials from Châteaux Pétrus, Lafite, Latour, Margaux, Mouton, Haut Brion, Ausone and Cheval Blanc.

FORTHCOMING SOTHEBY'S WINE SALES:

London:

June 9 - The Collection of Dr N K Yong

June 23

July 21

September 15

October 13

November 17

New York (with Sherry Lehmann)

May 22

September 18

November 19 & 20

Los Angeles

October 16

Chicago

June 12

October 9

December 11

The above dates may be subject to change

Enquiries: Amanda Stücklin

Sotheby's Press Office, London

Tel: 0171 293 5169 Fax: 0171 293 5947