



THE INSTITUTE OF
MASTERS OF WINE

ENDOWMENT AUCTION
NEW YORK, 1ST NOVEMBER 2006

6.00PM

CHRISTIE'S ROCKEFELLER CENTER
20 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK

CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION 5.30PM

WITH THE SUPPORT OF
CHRISTIE'S



The Institute of Masters of Wine exists to promote the highest level of educational achievement for the wine industry, culminating in the internationally recognised qualification of Master of Wine (MW). It organises all aspects of the Master of Wine education programme and examination over three continents, runs tastings and other events programmes in Europe and the USA, provides membership services to the 257 MWs world-wide, and information and access to specialist advice for the wine industry in general.

In 2004, the Institute was given seed funding of \$375,000 to establish an Endowment Fund on the condition that it raised matching funds of at least another £200,000 [\$375,000]. The income generated by this auction will contribute significantly to this target figure. Once established, the Endowment Fund will be used to further and expand the education work of the Institute by, for example:-

- o funding scholarships and bursaries to enable talented students of limited means to join the Institute's education programme;
- o funding tastings and seminars of educational importance to Masters of Wine, MW students and other wine professionals that would not otherwise be affordable and;
- o establishing additional MW education programmes in areas of the world where they are not currently available.

Overall, the aim is to use the funds to make the Master of Wine qualification available and accessible throughout the wine world.

The lots in tonight's auction have been provided by Masters of Wine and their contacts in the wine trade to whom we are very grateful and the wine lots have come directly from the cellars of MWs or the wineries themselves.

We ask that successful bidders for all non-wine lots make contact with the donor at the earliest opportunity via the Institute's office to arrange a mutually agreed date and time which should preferably be by the end of 2007 at the latest.

We thank you for your interest in this auction and for your support of the Institute of Masters of Wine Endowment Fund.

Patrick McGrath MW

Chairman of the Endowment Fundraising Panel

Chairman of the Institute of Masters of Wine (September 2004 to September 2006)

CONDITIONS OF SALE - NEW YORK

o Bidding will be conducted in US \$s per lot with **no buyers premium** on the hammer price.

o Transfer or delivery of wine lots should be arranged with Keren Nat of Christie's NY +01 212 492 5707 (further details below) following settlement. All other paperwork relating to lots involving visits or travel will be issued by the Institute of Masters of Wine

All payments should be made on the night of the sale, ideally by Visa or Mastercard. Personal and company cheques should be made payable to **The IMW Endowment Fund**.

Absentee bids may be made using the bid form at the back of the catalogue. This should be faxed to Keren Nat at Christie's on: +01 212 636 4954 or e-mailed to knat@christies.com

Successful bidders for non-wine lots should, in the first instance, contact the Institute of Masters of Wine on: +44 20 7621 2830 or by e-mail endowment@mastersofwine.org

All absentee bids must be received by 5pm on Tuesday October 31st

GENERAL

1

Music, Dinner and Wine with Tim Hanni MW

Combining careers in wine and food with a passion for music, Tim Hanni MW is a man of many parts. He offers dinner for six guests at his Napa home on a date to be agreed with the successful bidder.

Donated by: Tim Hanni MW

2

Dinner for six in Southern California

Lively debate around the table is guaranteed with this offer of dinner in Southern California for three couples with three Southern Californian Masters of Wine. A real treat for the wine connoisseur! Event details to be negotiated with the successful bidder.

Donated by: Patrick Farrell MW, Michael Doodan MW and Peter Koff MW

3

Dinner for six in New York

Dinner for six people at a New York restaurant (exact venue to be negotiated with successful bidder) in the company of Roger Bohmrich MW, who will also select the wines. An opportunity to enjoy the company and expertise of a wine expert in convivial surroundings.

Donated by: Roger Bohmrich MW

4

Dinner with chef, restaurateur and Burgundy specialist D.C. Flynt MW

D.C. Flynt MW is not only a Master of Wine and Burgundy expert but a distinguished chef. A treat is in store, therefore, for 10 guests who will enjoy dinner at his Louisiana home. Exact date to be agreed with the successful bidder.

Donated by: D.C. Flynt MW

5

Original painting

'Blind Wine'. An original painting in abstract style of a wine bottle and glass by renowned Irish artist Mary Catherine Nolan. The painting is acrylic, unframed, 69.6 cm high, 50 cm wide. Further details, including an image of the painting, can be obtained from the Institute of Masters of Wine.

Donated by: Mary Catherine Nolan

6

Stay at the Home of Scotch Whisky

Drummuir Castle is the Home of Scotch Whisky on Speyside. This offer is for six people to stay in its baronial splendour for two nights including transport within Scotland, meals, wines (specially selected from the cellars of Justerini & Brooks) and spirits. The trip also includes visits to three local distilleries (Cardhu, Knockando, and Royal Lochnagar, neighbor to Balmoral Castle) with a Master of Whisky to expand your knowledge and interest. You will also be taken through the fascinating history and heritage of Johnny Walker and a tutored nosing and tasting of the complete range, from Red Label through to Blue Label. Please note that flights to Scotland are not included. Nearest airport is Aberdeen.

Donated by: Diageo plc

WINES

7

1 bottle (75cl) Quinta do Noval Naçional 1963

Acknowledged as one of the world's great wines and produced from a small plot of ungrafted vines, Naçional Vintage is only made in the very best years and in tiny quantities. Noval consider this wine to be the best Vintage ever produced after the 1931. Michael Broadbent described it in 1989 as "immense, expansive, fig-like nose of great depth; medium sweet but very full-bodied. Glorious, uplifting, assertive." More recently (1998) he considered it "robust, still youthful; tremendous bite and concentration".

Donated by: Arnold Tasker MW.

8

12 bottles (75cl) Taylor's Port 1970

A blend of grapes from Taylor's two great vineyards Quinta do Vargellas and Quinta de Terra Feita, this wine is now beginning to come to full maturity. Robert Parker described it as "a gorgeous Port that is just emerging from adolescence, the dark garnet-hued 1970 reveals a touch of amber at the edge. An extraordinary nose of melted liquorice, road tar, plums, fruitcake, and sweet currants is followed by a wine of great richness, huge body, a wonderful sweet, expansive mid-palate, and a blockbuster finish. It will provide sumptuous drinking over the next two decades. 96 points."

Donated by: Liz Morcom MW

9

24 bottles (75cl) Graham's Port 1970

1970 produced some great Ports and this wine has now reached its full maturity and is ready for drinking. The vintage favoured the abundant ripe berry flavours and medium tannins of the Graham's style and Jancis Robinson MW, writing in 2004, described it as "very deep crimson with some evolution at the rim. Strongly scented - sweet, candied violets. Very sweet yet vigorous and still with lots of quite grainy tannins. Real power and no shortage of potential!"

Donated by: Symington Family Port Companies

10

Vertical of Ramnista Naoussa

3 bottles (75cl) each 1995 to 2002 inclusive (24 bottles total)

A rare line-up of vintages of Ramnista that proves the aging potential and the grandeur of the Xinomavro grape, as expressed in the appellation of Naoussa. It comes from selected parcels of the famous vineyards of Yiannis Boutaris's family, where he and his sons Stellios and Michalis have been experimenting for over twenty years, skillfully matching meso-climates, clones and viticultural practices.

Donated by: Kyr-Yiannis

11

12 bottles (75cl) Fonseca Port 1977

Fonseca ports are known for their richness and the 1977 is now in its full maturity. Still trodden by foot in the traditional manner, the grapes come mainly from the three quintas owned by Fonseca:- Quinta de Santo Antonio, Quinta do Cruzeiro and Quinta do Panascal. Michael Broadbent MW noted in 2001 that the wine was "sweet, glorious flavour, perfect now".

Donated by: Patrick McGrath MW

12

6 bottles (37.5cl) Argyros Estate Vinsanto 1983

In one of the viticultural jewels of Mediterranean Sea, Santorini, Vinsanto from Argyros Estate is the ultimate expression of possibly the best-kept secret in the world of sweet wine making. A wine style and name that was used in Santorini before it was introduced in Tuscany, Vinsanto is made from sun-dried Assyrtiko and Aidani grapes. Argyros releases his Vinsanto at 18 years of age, fully capitalising on his rarest old stocks.

Donated by: Argyros Estate

13

Schloss Vollrads

1 double magnum (3 litres) Schloss Vollrads Trockenbeerenauslese 2003

The 2003 vintage was possibly the finest ever in Germany, particularly for the Rheingau. Schloss Vollrads picked at over 300 Oeschle, giving a luxuriously sweet, almost unctuous wine, yet one that has sufficient natural acid for long-term cellaring.

Donated by: Schloss Vollrads

14

Samos

12 bottles (75cl) of Samos Muscat Nectar 1975

The flagship wine of Greece's most illustrious appellation is not commercially available, and thus exceedingly rare. This startlingly complex wine displays a lovely spiciness married to a delightful freshness. This wine, as described by Konstantinos Lazarakis MW, "belongs to the first division of any sweet wine classification, matching excellent depth and concentration with the marvellously floral, sweet character of Muscat Blanc".

Donated by: Samos Co-operative

15

2 half bottles (37.5cl) Chateau d'Yquem 1928

1928 was the first of a pair of outstanding vintages in Sauternes producing wines of great richness but of lighter colour than the great 1929. Michael Broadbent MW has noted some colour variation from lemon gold to rich warm amber over a number of tastings over a 20 year span, though rated the wine five stars on almost every occasion. At its best he describes it as "harmonious with great depth, glorious flavour, length and aftertaste."

Donated by: Peter MF Sichel

16

1 bottle (75cl) 1990 Meursault 1er cru Les Perrières, JF Coche-Dury

1 bottle (75cl) 1994 Meursault, JF Coche-Dury

1 bottle (75cl) 1996 Meursault, JF Coche-Dury

1 bottle (75cl) 1996 Meursault Clos de la Barre, Comtes Lafon

1 bottle (75cl) 1997 Meursault Clos de la Barre, Comtes Lafon

1 bottle (75cl) 1998 Meursault Clos de la Barre, Comtes Lafon

A half case of Meursault from two of the region's top producers:- Coche-Dury and Comte Lafon. The powerful oaky wines of Coche-Dury contrast with the more classic style of Lafon whose deep cellars allow the wine to age over a longer period than many other Meursault producers. The 1990s presented real contrasts in vintage and this lot includes examples from throughout the decade including a pair from the excellent 1996 vintage.

Donated by: John Hoskins MW

17

Domaine de la Romanée Conti

1 bottle Romanée Conti 1966

Bottle No. 06482, level 4cms below cork. Original correspondence and invoice (July 1971) available.

Only 7000 bottles of this wine, rated by Decanter as one of the "100 wines to try before you die", were produced. Anthony Hanson MW Burgundy specialist, bought this bottle in 1971. He writes "I bought this from Patrick Grubb MW when he was at J L P Lebègue & Cp, the DRC's agent at the time. It cost me £8.33 (\$15.75) per bottle, and seemed expensive at the time!". Ch'ng Poh Tiong called it the most unforgettable wine he'd ever had, "poetry in a bottle".

Donated by: Anthony Hanson MW

18

Veuve Clicquot

1 jeroboam (3litres) Veuve Clicquot La Grande Dame 1990

1990 was the third consecutive truly great vintage for Champagne, representing a trilogy unique in its history, and the incomparable finesse of this cuvée results from a

blend of the house's traditional Grands Crus. Strength and structure comes from the dominance of Pinot Noir from Aÿ, Verzenay, Verzy, Ambonnay and Bouzy, blended with the freshness and delicacy of Chardonnay from Avize, Oger and Mesnil-sur-Oger. Left to mature for at least six years, it is fine, complex, and harmonious.
Donated by: Champagne Veuve Clicquot and Charles Curtis MW

19

Champagne Krug

1 bottle (75 cl) Krug 1988

1 bottle (75 cl) Krug 1989

1 bottle (75 cl) Krug 1990

The House of Krug has never compromised in its commitment to excellence. It only produces a vintage in exceptional years, and to do so three years in a row was virtually unprecedented. The wines selected for the vintage are chosen specially to represent the harmony between the personality of Krug as a style and the characteristics of the vintage.

The hallmark of the 1988 vintage is very good ripeness allied with firm structure. In 1988, vintage Krug was a blend of 50% Pinot Noir, 18% Pinot Meunier, and 32% Chardonnay.

1989 got off to a cold and wet start, although hot weather in May advanced flowering. The summer was dry and hot, and ripeness advanced quickly and harvest, accordingly, was fairly early. The wines show well at this stage, since warm conditions make for forward wines. In 1989, the blend was 47% Pinot Noir, 29% Chardonnay, and 24% Pinot Meunier.

In 1990, spring frosts limited yields, while a sunny yet mild summer made for great ripeness and balanced structure in the wines. The grape blend in 1990 was 40% Pinot Noir, 23% Pinot Meunier, and 37% Chardonnay. The 1990 is the most elegant of this remarkable trilogy, harmonious and concentrated.

Donated by: Champagne Krug and Charles Curtis MW

20

Champagne Dom Pérignon

1 magnum (1.5litres) Dom Pérignon Oenothèque 1976

1 magnum (1.5litres) Dom Pérignon Oenothèque 1990

1990 is considered to be one of the best years of the 20th century in the Champagne region, and the Dom Pérignon Oenothèque 1990 has been heralded as the best of the best. The Oenothèque 1990 has reached the 2nd plentitude of development. The Oenothèque 1976 was disgorged in 2004, having aged on lees for 28 years and was released at the third plentitude. The exceptional maturity of the grapes produced wines of outstanding quality.

Donated by: Champagne Dom Perignon and Charles Curtis MW

21

10 bottles (75cl) of Robert Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve, one each of the 1993 to 2002 vintages

A perfect opportunity for a vertical tasting of this iconic wine. The winning bidder may choose to have these wines as a case for their own private enjoyment, or as part of a vertical tasting hosted at the Robert Mondavi Winery by Mark de Vere MW. (Other locations may be possible by mutual agreement.)

Donated by: Robert Mondavi Winery

22

1 large format bottle (6litres) Robert Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve 1994

1 large format bottle (5 litres) Robert Mondavi Fumé Blanc 1994

Napa Valley's 1994 vintage, the longest and coolest growing season recorded in the decade, produced wines of extraordinary concentration, depth and balance, and the 1994 Robert Mondavi Cabernet Sauvignon Reserve was one of the most acclaimed wines ever produced by the Robert Mondavi Winery, silky and opulent with impeccable balance. The Fumé Blanc is 75% barrel fermented in French oak to add complexity, creaminess and enhance ageing, and the large format means that the wine still shows some youthful zest, while demonstrating fully the benefits of 12 years ageing.

Donated by: Mark de Vere MW and the Robert Mondavi Winery

23

2 double magnums (3litres) Columbia Winery Red Willow Milestone Merlot 1999

Two double magnums of two of the best wines from Washington State: Columbia Winery's famed Milestone Merlot from the Red Willow vineyard, the most celebrated in Washington State. The 1999 vintage was very fine, giving deep and complex aromas together with great length.

Donated by: David Lake MW and the Columbia Winery

24

6 bottles (75cl) of Turley wines:

- 1995 Black Sears Zinfandel

- 1995 Duarte Zinfandel

- 1995 Aida Zinfandel

- 1999 Juvenile Zinfandel

- 1999 Vineyard 101 Zinfandel

- 1999 Turley Estate Petite Syrah

Legendary wines from the 'Zin masters' of one of California's most sought after wineries, Turley Wine Cellars. 1995 was Helen Turley's last year in charge of these super ripe wines but Ehren Jordan was already in place to take over the reins. Always impressive, the 1995 Aida in particular received 96 points from Robert Parker, which he rated as the finest Zinfandel yet produced from that site.

Donated by: Doug Frost MW

25

6 bottles (75cl) from Leonetti Winery:

- 2 bottles Merlot 2002

- 2 bottles Cabernet Sauvignon 2003

- 2 bottles Merlot 2003

A six pack of wines from one of Washington State's most respected wineries. The perfect weather in 2002 with a long, warm and dry growing season, contributed to an excellent Merlot vintage. 2003 gave similar conditions with particularly small, concentrated berries in the Merlot yielding wines of exceptionally dark colour, also evident in the Cabernet Sauvignon which offers rich and soft tannins and a long finish. Donated by: Doug Frost MW

26

6 bottles (75cl) from Cayuse Winery

- 2 bottles Coccinelle Syrah 2003

- 2 bottles Campestelo 2003

- 1 bottle En Cerise Syrah 2003

- 1 bottle Bionic Frog 2003

One of the most recently established wineries in the Walla Walla AVA, Cayuse was both the first Washington vineyard to be established by Christophe Baron and the first to be farmed biodynamically. Produced in small quantities, this is a rare opportunity to obtain this rich and concentrated wine on the open market.

Donated by: Doug Frost MW

27

1 double magnum (3litres) Château Valandraud 2000

Vintage 2000 produced wines of great character and typicity across the entire Bordeaux region. Robert Parker, writing in 2003, says of this wine: "Jean-Luc Thunevin tends to be humble when he talks about his 2000, as if there were something wrong with it. Well, it is a spectacular wine, and having tasted it three times from bottle, I am in love with it. Dense purple-colored, with a glorious nose of espresso, cocoa, chocolate, plum, black currant, and cherry, offering a true smorgasbord of heavenly delights, this medium to full-bodied wine still shows some relatively firm tannin, but the low acidity, layered, multi-textured mouthfeel, and tremendous purity are hallmarks of the Thunevin winemaking style."

Donated by: James Lawther MW

28

1 bottle (75cl) Chateau Montrose 1959 (Level 1 3/4 inches below cork)

1959 was a great vintage and Michael Broadbent MW, tasting the Montrose in 1999, described it as "still deep and velvety though with a fully mature rim; a classic cedary nose that opened up deliciously; some sweet ripeness, fairly, but not too full-bodied, fleshy, complete with tannin and acidity to keep it going for years".

Donated by: Doug Frost MW

29

I Imperial (6 litres) Château Figeac 1982

1982 gave ideal growing conditions with even early flowering and a hot and dry summer. Robert Parker regards the 1982 as one of his favourite Figeacs: "Medium-bodied, with gorgeously rich fruit, this delicate, subtle, ethereal effort is both well defined and intense." (Robert Parker 2000).

Donated by: Thierry Manoncourt, Ch. Figeac

30

I double magnum (3litres) Château Lafite Rothschild 2000

The Château Lafite-Rothschild is from a vintage which produced wines of great character and typicity across the entire Bordeaux region. Jancis Robinson MW, tasting this wine from bottle in 2003 described it as "dark crimson. Great depth. Some licorice. Very deep and meaty, but definitely reticent. Lots of acidity. Quite dry, sprightly, and refreshing. Neat. Well tucked in. Very concentrated and taut. Sweeter, thicker, and more jagged than Mouton-Rothschild."

Donated by: Christophe Salin.

31

I double magnum (3litres) Le Pin 2001

A glorious autumn made for a classic year. Jancis Robinson MW described the wine as "rich, sweet, full and opulent. More classic than 2000. Very, very opulent and quite full at the start. Very, very lively. Scented, contained, concentrated. Caresses the palate."

Donated by: Fiona Morrison MW

32

12 bottles (75cl) Château Margaux 1985

The 1980s produced several vintages of real distinction but the 1985 gave possibly the most ideal conditions. Robert Parker described this wine in 1993 as "a lovely, seductive, medium-bodied wine with a gorgeous bouquet of toasty new oak, berry fruit, and violets" while Michael Broadbent in 2004 considered it "the sort of claret that makes the eyes of old men water. Every sniff, every sip reveals fresh beauty".

Donated by: Peter MF Sichel

WINERY VISITS

33

Le Mesnil

Lunch or dinner for 4-6 people at the house of Champagne Le Mesnil plus visit and tasting. The property is located in Le Mesnil sur Oger, one of the Côte des Blancs villages which produces Chardonnays capable of long ageing.

Donated by: Champagne Le Mesnil

34

Dinner and truffles in Alba with Pio Cesare wines

Dinner for six at Pio Cesare owner Pio Boffa's home, near Alba in Italy's Piemonte region, including wine and white truffles (if in season). Pio Cesare was founded in 1881 by Pio Boffa's great-grandfather and makes some of the most highly regarded wines in the region.

Donated by: Pio Boffa

35

Veuve Clicquot

A visit for 2 people in 2007 to Champagne Veuve Clicquot. The lot includes transport from Paris to Reims, a stay at our private mansion, a private visit to the cellar, a guided private tour of Reims Cathedral, meals at Hôtel du Marc and a two star Michelin restaurant, special training with one of our team of oenologists and a vineyard tour according to the length of the stay.

Donated by: Champagne Veuve Clicquot

36

Quintessa

Lunch for four people with Agustin Huneeus at Quintessa Estate, Rutherford plus a double magnum (3litres) of Quintessa 2002 which Robert Parker described as "clearly the richest Quintessa to date, it is medium to full-bodied, with a seamless integration of wood, tannin, and acidity."

Donated by: Agustin Huneeus

37

Harlan Estate and Meadowood

A tour and tasting of Harlan Estate for four people, with a two night stay at the luxurious Meadowood Resort in the delightful Napa Valley, a 250 acre property nestled in a beautiful valley, that has become a centre of social, cultural and viticultural life in Napa Valley, and a second home for those who enjoy the beauty and hospitality of the wine country.

Donated by: Bill Harlan

38

Austrian Wine Country Gourmet Tour

A four-day trip to Austrian wine country for two people including visits to top Austrian producers accompanied by Pepi Schuller the first Austrian Master of Wine. Also included is a visit to Vienna, 3 nights in Taubenkobel Relais et Chateaux and all transport within Austria. Timing of the visit and detailed itinerary to be negotiated with the successful bidder.

Donated by: Taubenkobel Relais & Chateaux.

39

Burgundy with Clive Coates MW

Clive Coates MW, himself a legend in his own lifetime, will give the successful bidders a memorable trip through the Côte de Nuits (two days) and Côte de Beaune (one day), visiting all the top vineyards and showing the topography of the region, with in depth explanations of geology, history and winemaking. Domaines to be visited include Domaine Bonneau du Martray (to include lunch at the Domaine), Maison Drouhin (including a picnic in the famous Clos du Mouche vineyard), Domaine Grivot, Domaine Comtes Georges de Vogue, Domaine Lafarge, Domaine Armand Rousseau and Domaine Anne Gros. This trip is for four people with times to be agreed with Clive Coates, ideally in May or June 2007. Please note that accommodation and other meals are the responsibility of the bidder.

Donated by: Clive Coates MW and the participating wineries

40

Travel through five decades of German Riesling

A unique chance to taste through five decades of German Riesling history. This lot includes seven nights' accommodation, internal transport, tastings, lunches and dinners for two people in the company of Jürgen von der Mark MW at top wineries and restaurants. Flights to Germany are not included. You will stay as private guests with several of Germany's top winemakers. Highlights are dinner at Weingut J.J. Prüm and lunch with Egon Müller at the Scharzhof Winery. For full details see : www.vdp.de/english
Donated by: Jürgen von der Mark MW with the support of VDP, German Wine Institute, Ministry of Agriculture

41

'Family of 12' New Zealand odyssey

A 10 day tour of New Zealand for four people, visiting the renowned family-owned wineries that comprise the 'Family of 12'. The successful bidder will visit, from north to south, Kumeu River and Villa Maria (Auckland), The Millton Vineyard (Gisborne), Craggy Range (Hawkes Bay), Palliser Estate and Ata Rangī (Martinborough), Fromm Winery, Nautilus and Lawsons Dry Hills (Marlborough), Neudorf Vineyards (Nelson), Pegasus Bay (Waipara) and Felton Road (Central Otago). Accommodation, car hire and all meals are included.

Donated by: Family of 12 Wineries.

42

Barossa Extravaganza

The Barossa is rightly regarded as one of the world's classic wine regions and is famous for its generously proportioned and opulent Shirazes. This "once in a lifetime" trip comprises an extraordinary array of tastings, lunches and dinners for four people to be held with the region's most influential and innovative winemakers over a five day/ five night period at a mutually convenient date. The Barossans are renowned for their

generosity, hospitality and warmth. You will meet remarkable people and enjoy some of the rarest, finest and most sought after wines in an informal and personalised format.

The itinerary will be pulled together by Andrew Caillard, MW of Langton's Fine Wines - in association with Christie's - to suit the traveling dates of the successful bidder.

Donated by: Charles Melton, Grant Burge, Kaesler, Henschke, Penfolds, Peter Lehmann, Rockford Winery, Saltram, St Hallett, Teusner, Torbreck and Yalumba.

43

Trip of a lifetime to Bordeaux

This wonderful trip offers tremendous opportunity to visit, dine and stay in some of the most exciting and prestigious Bordeaux properties. For four people, it comprises:

- a visit and tasting at the supreme Pessac-Léognan property Haut-Brion, producing wine characterised by seductive perfume, harmony and elegance, capable of extensive aging;
- one night at Cordeillan Bages, a small Pauillac property best known as a luxury hotel and restaurant, dinner with the Cazes family, owners of Château Lynch Bages, breakfast and a tasting at Lynch Bages;
- two nights Bed & Breakfast at the wonderful hotel and spa Les Sources de Caudalie, with a winery visit and tasting, together with dinner with the owners Daniel & Florence Cathiard, who have developed this highly respected and incredibly indulgent property;
- one night accommodation and dinner at either the legendary Château d'Yquem, whose 2001 vintage was awarded 100 points by Robert Parker and whose older vintages age into sublime lushness, or at the sublime Château Cheval Blanc, famous for its Cabernet Franc-based wines of great opulence, approachable at any age. Lunch at the Château which did not provide dinner and accommodation (location of dinner / lunch will depend on timing of the visit);
- lunch at Château Palmer; described by Hugh Johnson as "the star of Cantenac", officially a third growth, but established as a "Super Second" long ago, and producing some of the best wines in Bordeaux in its best years
- lunch at Château Langoa-Barton, family owned and run since the 1820s (with Léoville-Barton). The Barton family represents the longest tradition of unchanging ownership in the Médoc, and lunch will include a parting gift of a magnum for each guest
- lunch at Château Suduiraut. This beautiful chateau, rebuilt in the 17th Century, with gardens designed by Le Nôtre, produces elegant, sweet and full-bodied wines which are

often described as the essence of Sauternes

- dinner at Château Rauzan-Ségla, now reclaiming its former glory as one of the stars of the Médoc, and producer of famously fragrant Margaux wines

- and finally, dinner at the legendary Le Pin, producers of one of the most iconic wines of the Right Bank and, indeed, of all Bordeaux, yet so understated that, to the uninitiated, it is virtually impossible to find. The effort is well rewarded with super-concentrated, almost decadent wines

Times to be agreed with the successful bidder, but not on the following dates: 10 - 25 June 2007, September and October 2007 (harvest - date subject to change) and Christmas season

Donated by: AXA Millésimes, Lillian Barton, Daniel & Florence Cathiard, Jean-Michel Cazes, J Kolassa, Pierre Lurton, HRH Prince Robert of Luxembourg, Charlie Sichel, Jacques Thienpont & Fiona Morrison MW

Reverse of absentee bid form - leave blank