

## **Acker Merrall & Condit's Wine Auction in Hong Kong Achieves A Spectacular Total of HK\$91 Million, 99% Sold**

### **THREE WORLD AUCTION RECORDS ACHIEVED:**

**\*\*A Case of 1988 DRC Romanée-Conti, A Case of 1982 Chateau Lafleur & A Single Lot of Comte Liger-Belair\*\***

**Hong Kong - Acker Merrall & Condit**, the World's leading wine auctioneer and America's oldest fine wine merchant, concluded its two-day wine auction held at the Island Shangri-La and Grand Hyatt Hong Kong on 28 May 2011 with an impressive total of **HK\$91 Million/ US\$11.67 Million and a 99% sold rate**. Three world auction records were established including that for a case of 1988 DRC Romanée-Conti, a case of 1982 Chateau Lafleur and a lot of Comte Liger-Belair, one of Burgundy's most storied and famous Domaines. Collectors competed enthusiastically throughout the sale, which offered over 1,100 lots of some of the greatest and rarest wines from all over the world.

**John Kapon, CEO of Acker Merrall & Condit Companies**, said: "We witnessed very spirited bidding throughout the two-day sale via absentee bids, the room and live on the internet. Our unrivalled selection of rare and great wines was represented by numerous superb private collections, boasting immaculate provenance and outstanding condition. We are particularly pleased that the sale's featured collection, which we carefully divided into four different sections in the catalogue, totaled over HK\$26.54 million/US\$3.4 million, well-above pre-sale expectations. The remarkable success of the sale testifies to the robust growth of the Hong Kong and Asian wine market, and Acker's commitment to bring the world's best cellars to market here."

A number of stunning collections, featuring vintages of the most outstanding Bordeaux and Burgundy winemakers, were offered in the sale. The star lot was **a rare wooden case of 1945 Mouton Rothschild with perfect provenance** which sold for **HK\$1,281,000/ US\$164,230** after heated bidding (illustrated right). Described as 'one of the immortal wines of the Century,' this exceptionally rare case had been reconditioned at the Château and cellared by Mahler-Besse. It came with a letter of authenticity from the Château and has been known as one of the most legendary wines not only from the 20th century, but also of all time.

Other top Bordeaux lots included -

- 15 magnums of 1983-2002 Le Pin: HK\$829,600/ US\$106,359
- A case of 1982 Pétrus in original wooden case: HK\$536,800/ US\$68,821
- A case of the highly coveted 1982 Lafite: HK\$536,800/ US\$68,821
- A case of 2000 Petrus magnums in original wooden case: HK\$536,800/ US\$62,564
- 6 magnums of 1945 Margaux: HK\$366,000/ US\$46,923

A large and compelling offering of Burgundy, headed by an incredible array of wines from Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, also achieved fantastic results. Two full original wooden cases of the highly sought-after 1988 Romanée Conti in pristine condition,

realized **HK\$829,600/ US\$106,359** each which **set a world auction record for a case of 1988 DRC Romanée-Conti.**

Acker was in particular honored to offer an American collection that spanned four sections of the catalog and offered bidders the finest from Bordeaux and Burgundy. Almost every wine was purchased en primeur or on release and have been professionally stored ever since and never moved. Star offerings included an original wooden case of the legendary 1982 Chateau Lafleur including which commanded **HK\$439,200/ US\$56,308, establishing a world auction record for a case of 1982 Lafleur.** Other rarities in the collection included two cases of 1962 Leroy La Romanée in original wooden cases HK\$366,000/ US\$46,923 and HK\$341,600/ US\$43,795 respectively. Four cases of 1982 Chateau Latour attracted active bidding, with two cases selling for HK\$292,800/ US\$37,538 each.

Three very special consignments, each coming directly from the respective properties and obviously of immaculate provenance, drew high level of interest of collectors. They represented some of the world's most collectible wine regions: Château Valandraud from Saint Emilion in Bordeaux, Dominio de Pingus from Ribera del Duero in Spain and the biggest collection of Domaine Liger-Belair ever to come to auction. Of note, there was one lot encompassing eight jeroboams produced by Louis-Michel Liger-Belair spanning 2002-2009 that were never before commercially released, which realized HK\$536,800/ US\$68,821, **setting a world auction record for any single lot of Domaine Comte Liger-Belair.**

**Acker Merrall will conduct Fall auctions in Hong Kong September 17-18, November 4-5 and December 9-10.**

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