

Market watch

News from the world of investments and auctions

COMPILED BY CHRIS MERCER

Romanée-Conti 1945 sets new price record

Legendary Burgundy wine Romanée-Conti Grand Cru 1945, from famed producer Domaine de la Romanée-Conti (DRC), has broken its own auction price record by selling for more than US\$800,000 (£591,000).

US-based auction house Acker (formerly Acker, Merrill & Condit) sold a bottle of DRC, Romanée-Conti Grand Cru 1945 for \$812,500 at its recent La Paulée event in New York. That's a new record auction price for a bottle of wine, said Acker. It said the new record-holder was first sold in 2018 and originated from the cellar of Burgundy winemaking pioneer Robert Drouhin.

Auction house Sotheby's sold two bottles of DRC, Romanée-Conti 1945 from Robert Drouhin's private cellar in 2018, including one for \$558,000 – a world record at the time. Only 600 bottles of the 1945 vintage were produced, and the famed vineyard site was subsequently replanted due to the phylloxera pest.

DRC wines are a cornerstone of auctions. In a newly published annual report, Sotheby's said DRC constituted 17%



of its wine auction sales, by value, in 2025. Bordeaux's Petrus came second, accounting for 7% of total sales. Three other Burgundy producers featured in the top 10 list: Domaines Leroy (plus d'Auvenay), Armand Rousseau and Henri Jayer.

'Two-speed market'

France-based auction house iDealwine recently highlighted signs of a 'two-speed market' for fine wines. 'A clear polarisation is emerging between a softening broader market and an ultra-premium segment that remains highly competitive, attracting serious bidding wars between collectors.'

Latour 2019 makes its debut

Château Latour 2019 (100pts, Decanter) has been one of several high-profile releases hitting the market for the first time in recent weeks. Latour 2019 was around £2,790 (€6x75cl in bond) in the UK. Liv-ex, a global marketplace for the trade, said the wine was among the more expensive Latour vintages on the market but below the price of Latour 2016, a fellow 100-point wine released to widespread acclaim last year. Geraint Carter, of

Bordeaux Index and the LiveTrade online trading platform, said demand for Latour 2019 began modestly but that the wine ended up selling 'pretty well'. Other Bordeaux releases in recent weeks have included Château d'Yquem 2023, particularly strong scores. Liv-ex an ex-negociant price of €255-a-similar to other recent vintages, v-international release price of £3.3 (12x75cl in bond).

COMING UP

Taste Bordeaux 2025

Bordeaux's en primeur campaign will likely dominate the releases landscape this month. In London, Berry Bros & Rudd will host a tasting of Bordeaux 2025 samples on 12 May. Prospective buyers can also read in-depth analysis and exclusive tasting notes from the vintage online via Decanter.com and Decanter Premium, and look out for a report in the next issue.

One-off Oregon wines

A 10th edition of the Willamette Valley Wine Auction will take place in May, showcasing one-of-a-kind, 2024-vintage wines from this US stronghold for Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. An online auction and live event on 13 May will be followed by a trade-only sale on 14 May. For more details, see willamettewines.auction.

Christie's in Asia

Christie's is set to auction the fifth, and final, instalment of rare wines from the cellar of collector Joseph Lau, in Hong Kong on 22 May. It's part of a series of sales of different collectibles, ranging from fine art to precious jewels, to mark 40 years of Christie's auctions in Asia.

Clos Vougeot festival and auction

The 18th edition of the Musique et Vin au Clos Vougeot, to be held in

producers featured in the top 10 list: Domaines Leroy (plus d'Auvenay), Armand Rousseau and Henri Jayer.

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