# Market Report 2019



# The 2019 Wine Market Leader

Auction sales hit \$118 million 20% increase over 2018 highest ever total

**Buyers from** 50 countries First dedicated spirits sale The Ultimate Whisky Collection achieves \$10 million in London, setting the

world record for the most valuable private whisky collection at auction

\$5,855

Average bottle price for Domaine de la Romanée-Conti

\$24,744 Average bottle price for The Macallan

### World's most expensive bottle of wine or spirit

The Macallan Fine & Rare 60-year-old 1926 sold at auction in London for \$1.9 million

### #1 Worldwide

in live auction sales and single-owner sales

# \$1.25 billion

in auction sales since 1995

### New world record

for a private wine collection sold at Auction with Tran-scend-ent Wines which achieved \$30 million in Hong Kong

### **Retail Launches** Sotheby's Own Label Collection

Launch of Sotheby's Own Label Collection continues expansion into Fine Wine Retail

Sotheby's Own Label wines accounted for over 30% of volume since launch

Sotheby's Wine won The Drinks Business Wine Retailer of the Year award in 2019

to \$82.000

Alternative bottle size formats comprised 15% of retail volume, from Half-Bottles to 15-Liter Nebuchadnezzars

Additional wines and spirits debuting in 2020

Sotheby's Champagne is the #1 selling wine

### Sotheby's Wine named Fine Wine Retailer of the Year in 2019

Bottles sold range in price from \$13.95



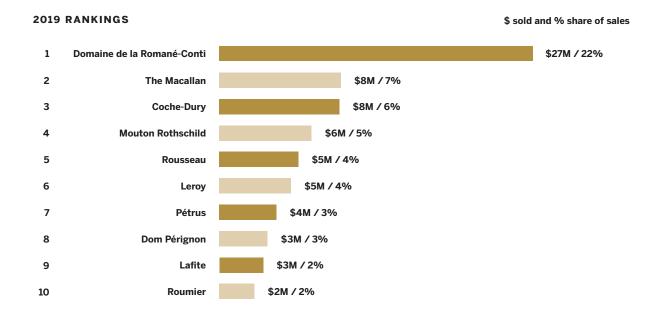
## **Top Producers**

AUCTION AND RETAIL

#### Domaine de la Romanée-Conti is the No. 1 Ranked Producer

Domaine de la Romanée-Conti continued its dominance of the fine wine market for the 7th consecutive year, with sales of **over \$27M** – more than the top 10 Bordeaux producers combined.

Domaine de la Romanée-Conti's share represents 25% of all wine sales, 44% of all Burgundy wine sales and 22% of all wine and spirits sales.



While Domaine de la Romanée-Conti dominates in terms of aggregate sales, the average bottle price for The Macallan was over four times that of Domaine de la Romanée-Conti.



### **Producer Rankings**





BORDEAUX	Pct.	BURGUNDY	Pct.
1 Mouton Rothschild	20%	1 Domaine de la Romanée-Conti	44%
2 Pétrus	12%	2 Coche-Dury	13%
3 Lafite	9%	3 Leroy	9%
4 Latour	7%	4 Rousseau	8%
5 Haut Brion	7%	5 Roumier	4%
6 Margaux	6%	6 Leflaive	3%
7 Cheval Blanc	4%	7 Henri Jayer	2%
8 La Mission Haut Brion	4%	8 JF Mugnier	2%
9 Le Pin	3%	9 Liger-Belair	1%
10 Léoville Las Cases	2%	10 Ramonet	1%

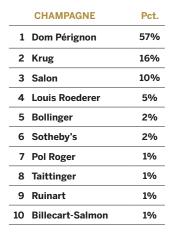




ITALY	Pct.	SPAIN	Pct.
1 Ornellaia	24%	1 Vega Sicilia	39%
2 Gaja	11%	2 Pingus	16%
3 Masseto	10%	3 Alvaro Palacios	10%
4 Sassicaia	8%	4 González Byass	9%
5 Bruno Giacosa	6%	5 CVNE	4%
6 Antinori	5%	6 Lopez De Heredia	2%
7 Giacomo Conterno	4%	7 Berisford	2%
8 Soldera	4%	8 Comando G	2%
9 Bartolo Mascarello	2%	9 Raventos	1%
10 Fontodi	1%	10 Bodega Numanthia	1%









	RHONE	Pct.
1	Guigal	37%
2	Paul Jaboulet Aîné	23%
3	Jean-Louis Chave	17%
4	Gentaz-Dervieux	5%
5	Rayas	5%
6	Henri Bonneau	3%
7	Auguste Clape	2%
8	Nöel Verset	2%
9	Beaucastel	2%
10	Chapoutier	1%





UNITED STATES

Pct.



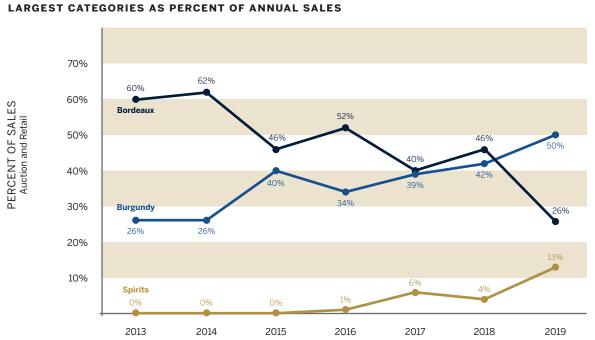
1	Screaming Eagle	33%
2	Harlan Estate	24%
3	Opus One	7%
4	Dominus	6%
5	Ridge	4%
6	Sine Qua Non	3%
7	Scarecrow	2%
8	Heitz	1%
9	Colgin Cellars	1%
10	Joseph Phelps	1%

	SPIRITS	Pct.
1	The Macallan	54%
2	Moutai	10%
3	Bowmore	8%
4	Yamazaki	5%
5	Dalmore	3%
6	Springbank	3%
7	Karuizawa	3%
8	Glenfiddich	1%
9	Highland Park	1%
10	Laphroaig	1%

## All Eyes on Burgundy and Spirits

**BURGUNDY AND SPIRITS CONTINUE TO GAIN MARKET SHARE** 

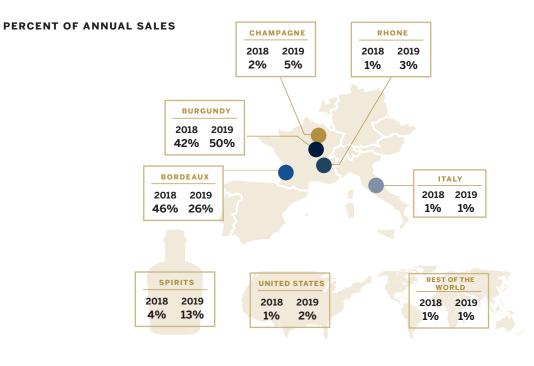
### Wine Sales & Bottle Prices by Category



Spirits comprised a larger share of Sotheby's sales as a result of The Ultimate Whisky Collection the largest private collection of spirits ever sold. The sale prompted a surge in Spirits volume which grew more than three-fold.

Burgundy also captured a larger share of wallet, driven by 12% appreciation in average bottle price and a 29% increase in volume. Supply in Burgundy increased over the past two years as collectors capitalized on price appreciation.

Bordeaux represented only 26% of our total sales, largely due to a 36% decline in average bottle price while volume remained flat. We anticipate Bordeaux reclaiming market share through increases in both price and volume over the next few years, as supply of Burgundy normalizes and appreciation for the price-to-quality of Bordeaux gathers momentum.



AVERAGE BOTTLE PRICE

	AUCTION 2019 2018		RETAIL 2019 2018
Bordeaux	\$513	\$804	\$160 \$191
Burgundy	\$1,904	\$1,700	\$278 \$399
Champagne	\$1,029	\$489	\$93 \$95
Italy	\$369	\$339	\$77 \$100
Rhone	\$696	\$418	\$101 \$95
United States	\$668	\$279	\$153 \$171
Rest of the World	\$34	\$248	\$37 \$40
All Wine	\$936	\$938	\$152 \$205
Spirits	\$11,333	\$8,796	\$504 \$1,813
Wine & Spirits	\$1,068	\$977	\$153 \$209

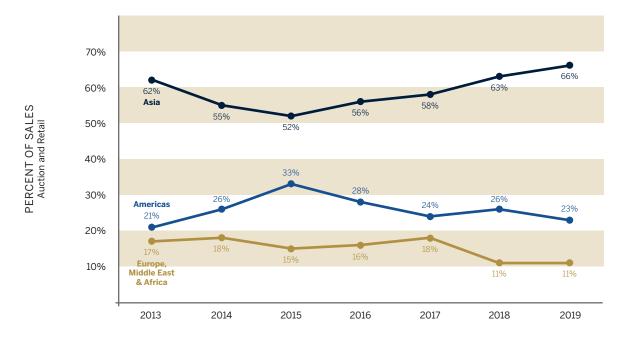
The average bottle price for **Spirits** at auction increased 16% to \$11,333 which is over twelve times the value of the average bottle price for Wine.

**Champagne** and **Rhone** both saw substantial increases in average bottle price, up 110% and 66% respectively, driving gains for both categories in share of sales.



### Asia Continues to Drive Demand

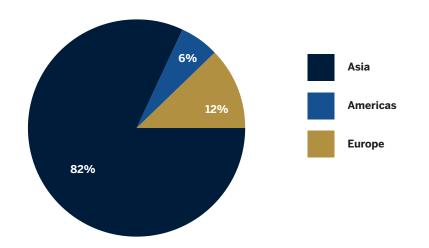
#### **GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF SOTHEBY'S BUYERS SINCE 2013**



Buyers from Asia continue claiming a larger share of our global sales, capturing the highest share since 2013 at 66% of total sales in 2019.

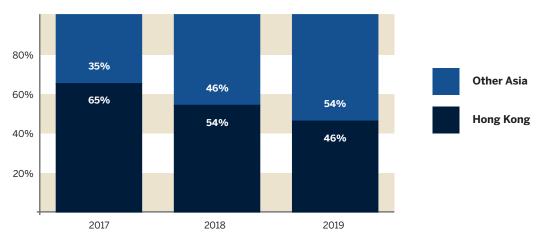
Demand from Asia is particularly significant for Spirits, with 82% of Spirits sales compared to 64% for Wine.

#### **GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF SOTHEBY'S SPIRITS BUYERS IN 2019**



### **Diversification Among Asian Buyers**

#### DISTRIBUTION OF AUCTION SALES AMONG ASIAN BUYERS, 2017-2019



Buyers from Hong Kong have historically made up over 50% of sales to Asian buyers; however, in 2019, clients from countries outside of Hong Kong have taken increasing market share, most notably Taiwan, Thailand, and Singapore.

### Where are Sotheby's Wine's buyers from?

Hong Kong and the United States maintained the top 2 positions in our rankings, although their combined share of total sales decreased to 51% in 2019, compared to 58% in 2018.







### **Auction Results**

#### **Global Wine Auctions**

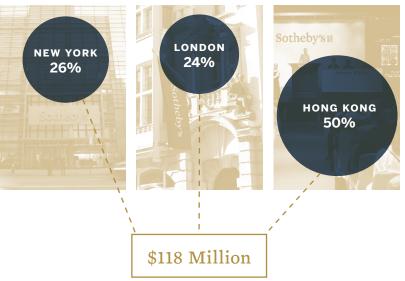
Auction sales doubled in the past two years to **\$118 million** 

- 151% to Low Estimate
- 106% to High Estimate

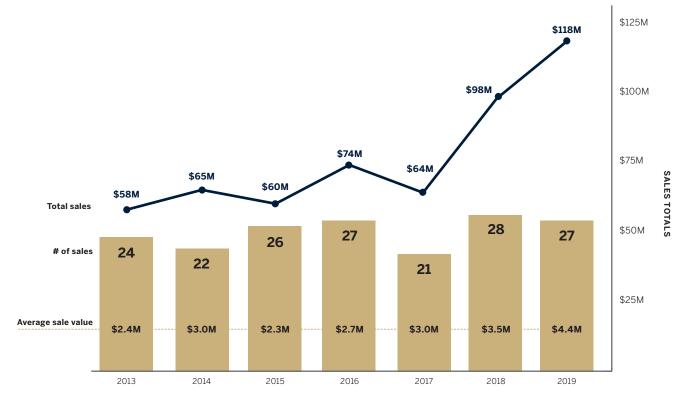
London achieved their highest ever total of **\$28 million,** up 60% on the back of The Ultimate Whisky Collection

33% of bidders were new to Sotheby's, contributing to increased competition for each lot

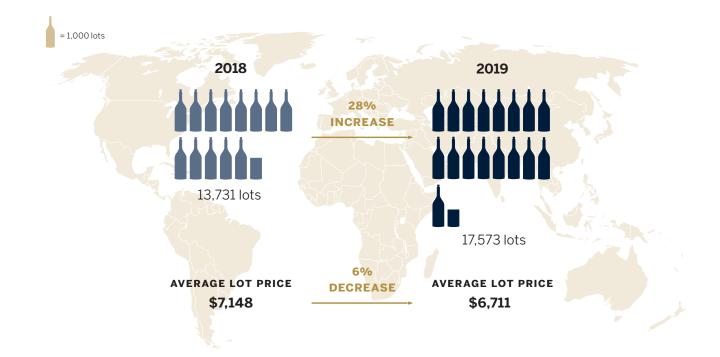
WORLDWIDE AUCTION SALES



Sotheby's held 27 auctions with an average sale value of \$4.4M.



#### In 2019, Sotheby's Wine sold 17,573 lots in 27 sales, a 28% increase in lots sold.



#### **Bidding methods** worldwide

Bidding methods worldwide were 60% generally unchanged compared to 2018 50% Absentee/phone bidding is still the 40% most prevalent method of bidding worldwide, accounting for 61% of lots 30% **Sale Room** participation is highest 20% in Hong Kong, while **Online bidding** is most popular in New York and

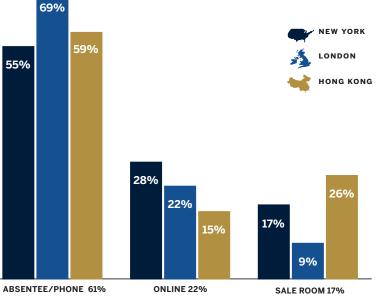
Absentee bidding is most prevalent

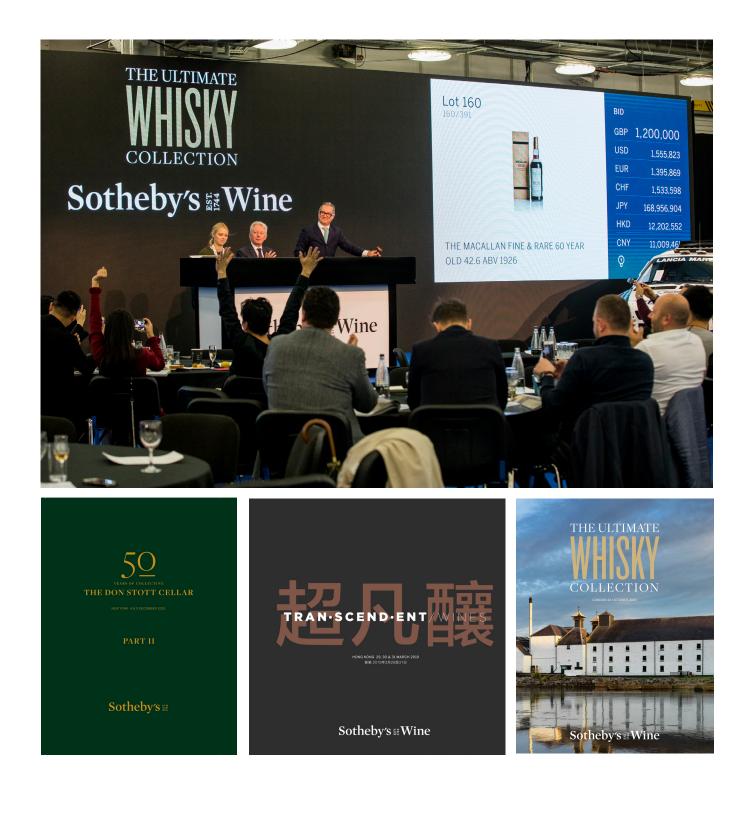
in London

10%

#### **BIDDING METHODS FOR EACH SALE LOCATION**

% OF TOTAL LOTS SOLD



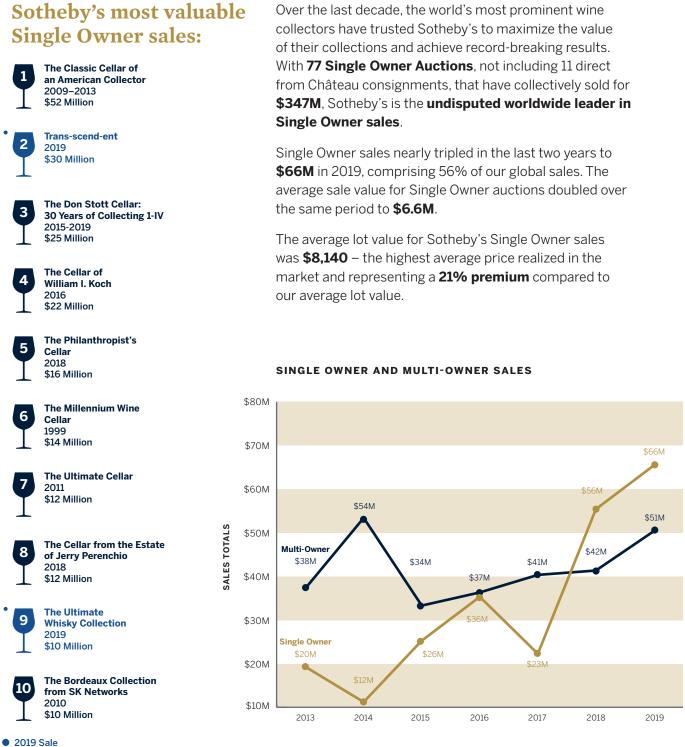


### The Market Leader in **Single Owner Sales**

1

3

7



### The Ultimate Whisky Collection

AN HISTORIC MOMENT FOR THE SPIRITS MARKET

Sotheby's first Single-Owner whisky auction achieved \$10 million, the highest total for any private whisky collection offered at auction.

- Smashed pre-sale estimates of \$4.3–5.9 million
- 394 Lots, 467 Bottles, 9 Casks
- 87% of lots sold exceeded the wpre-sale estimates
- 100% lots sold

The **Macallan Fine & Rare 60-Year-Old 1926** set a new auction record for any bottle of wine or spirit, selling for \$1.9 million.

The sale featured the most extensive collection of **Macallan Fine and Rare** ever to be seen at auction, with 178 bottles which sold for \$6.6m. "It was remarkable to see so many iconic bottles break records – homage to the importance of distilleries such as Bowmore, Brora, Springbank and, of course, The Macallan. The electricity in the auction room was palpable. There were cheers when the hammer fell on The Macallan Fine and Rare 1926, in what has to be one of the most exciting moments in the history of whisky sales."

– Jonny Fowle





## Château Mouton Rothschild Versailles Celebration Cases

In an unprecedented partnership between Château Mouton Rothschild and the Palace of Versailles, Sotheby's Wine sold 75 limited-edition Versailles Celebration Cases, featuring five Château Mouton Rothschild vintages, each of which included a private visit and tasting at Château Mouton Rothschild. Successful bidders were also invited to attend the "Versailles Celebration Gala Dinner" at the Palace of Versailles where they enjoyed the legendary 1982 and 1945.

The Versailles Celebration Cases were sold across 3 sales in New York, London and Hong Kong, achieving a total of \$2.7 million in sales with buyers from more than 15 countries.

The proceeds were donated to help fund restoration projects at the Palace of Versailles and efforts to rebuild the Notre-Dame Cathedral.

### **Highest Prices Achieved**

RANKING	PRICE	WINE
1	\$1,873,951	The Macallan Fine & Rare 60 Year Old, 1926 1 Bottle sold in <i>London</i>
2	\$858,894	The Macallan In Lalique Six Pillars Collection with French Polished Walnut Cabinet 6 Bottles sold in <i>London</i>
3	\$812,046	The Macallan In Lalique Six Pillars Collection with Black Lacquer Walnut Cabinet 6 Bottles sold in <i>London</i>
4	\$468,488	Bowmore 54 Year Old, 1957 1 Bottle sold in <i>London</i>
5	\$437,255	The Macallan Fine & Rare Miniature Collection 46 Bottles (5cl) sold in <i>London</i>
6	\$347,520	Romanée-Conti, Domaine de la Romanée-Conti 1990* 12 Bottles sold in <i>Hong Kong</i>
7	\$343,558	Springbank 50 Year Old Original Bottling, 1919 1 Bottle sold in <i>London</i>
8	\$300,272	The Yamazaki Single Malt Whisky Aged 50 Years, NV 1 Bottle sold in <i>Hong Kong</i>
9	\$300,131	Romanée-Conti, Domaine de la Romanée-Conti 1985 12 Bottles sold in <i>Hong Kong</i>
10	\$284,468	Romanée-Conti, Domaine de la Romanée-Conti 1988 12 Bottles sold in <i>Hong Kong</i>

\*3 cases of Romanée-Conti, Domaine de la Romanée-Conti 1990 each sold for \$347,520

The top lots of 2019 were exclusively comprised of **Whisky and Burgundy**, with the scales tipped decidedly towards **Spirits** this year achieving **7 out of 10 top lots** belonging to the category.

**London** claimed the top sales thanks to the record-breaking *Ultimate Whisky Collection*. **6** of the **top 10** highest prices achieved in 2019 were from this momentous sale alone.

9 of the top 10 lots were purchased by Asian buyers.



## **Upcoming Auctions**

DATE	LOCATION
Mar 18	London
Apr 18	New York
Apr 22	London
May 8–9	New York
May 16	London
May 20	London
Jun 2–28	Hong Kong
Jun 10	London
Jun 20	Hong Kong
Jul 2–19	London
July 6–12	Hong Kong
Jul 15	London
Sep 8–27	New York
Sep 11–12	New York
Sep 16	London
Oct 3–4	Hong Kong
Oct 14	London
Oct 16–17	New York
Oct 31	London
Nov 13–14	New York
Nov 21	London
Dec 1–15	Hong Kong
Dec 4-5	New York
Dec 9	London

Dates are subject to change.



### 27 Specialists Worldwide

Sotheby's global team has a collective **430 years** of cumulative experience in the fine wine industry, with an average of 16 years each.



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Serena Sutcliffe, MW Honorary Chairman, Wine 29 Years at Sotheby's

James Reed Director, Specialist 23 Years at Sotheby's



Stephen Mould Senior Director, Head of Sotheby's Wine, Europe 40 Years at Sotheby's



Jonny Fowle **Spirits Specialist** 7 Years in Spirits Industry



LONDON AUCTION +44(0)20 7293 6423 WINE@SOTHEBYS.COM



Jamie Ritchie Senior Vice President, Worldwide Head of Sotheby's Wine 30 Years at Sotheby's



Julia Gilbert Vice President, Senior Wine Advisor 16 Years in the Fine Wine Industry

Yassmin Dever

Sara Sparks

2 Years at Sotheby's

Lorine Schaefer

**Retail Sales Director** 

Retail Sales

Associate Wine Advisor



Connor Kriegel Vice President, Head of Auction Sales 10 Years at Sotheby's



Paul Tortora Vice President, Senior Specialist 12 Years in the Fine Wine Industry



Victor Rabot Assistant Vice President, Fine Wine Buyer 15 Years in the Fine Wine Industry

4 Years in the Fine Wine Industry



**Richard Young** Vice President, Senior Specialist 11 Years in the Fine Wine Industry



Joel Kampfe **Retail Director** 13 Years in the Fine Wine Industry



AUCTION +1 212 606 7050 RETAIL +1 212 894 1990 WINE@SOTHEBYS.COM



Jake Elgart Specialist 3 Years in the Fine Wine Industry



AUCTION +852 2822 8174 RETAIL +852 2886 7888 WINE@SOTHEBYS.COM

Damian Tillson Director, Specialist 20 Years at Sotheby's



Claire Collini Director, Specialist 20 Years at Sotheby's



Caroline Shepherd Deputy Director, Specialist 18 Years at Sotheby's

**Hugh Machin** Spirits Specialist Trainee 11 Years at Sotheby's



Frédéric Guyot du Repaire Director, Specialist 15 Years at Sotheby's





### The Sotheby's Fine Wine Ecosystem AUCTION · RETAIL · STORAGE

#### **Buy**



RETAIL: NEW YORK · HONG KONG AUCTION: NEW YORK · LONDON · HONG KONG

#### Sell



Sotheby's Wine's well-earned reputation continues to attract the world's most prestigious collections. We maximize the value of collections by offering direct access to the world's most affluent and active wine buyers and determining the best method of sale across three continents and multiple selling platforms. Apart from being the auction house of choice for the world's most important cellars, Sotheby's Wine also makes offers to buy well-sourced and perfectlystored wine and spirits at a fixed price.

#### **Store**



Sotheby's Wine Storage provides secure, temperature-controlled, fully insured, professional storage of fine wine and spirits in New York, and will soon be rolling out in London and Hong Kong. Clients are automatically enrolled to store in all of our locations, and can seamlessly access and manage their collections any time with our online platform, Sotheby's Wine Virtual Cellar.

#### **Get Advice**



Sotheby's Wine comprises the most experienced and successful team in the business. Our renowned specialists are eager to consult about building, maintaining and maximizing the value of wine and spirits collections. Our advisors are always available to discuss collection goals, suggest purchases or sales, and recommend what to further cellar or drink.

From our innovative Own Label Collection to impeccably sourced rare wines, Sotheby's offers wines and spirits for all levels of consumers and collectors. Bid in an upcoming auction, browse our retail stores' expertly-chosen selections, or meet with an advisor to craft your ideal collection. Our global team of specialists, with over 400 years of expertise, carefully selects wine and spirits in the best condition and with excellent provenance.

#### ANALYSIS BY YASSMIN DEVER

# Sotheby's Mine

AUCTION • RETAIL • STORAGE New York Hong Kong London

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