

WORLD'S LEADING WINE AUCTIONEERS



ACKER MERRALL & CONDIT  
WINE MERCHANTS SINCE 1820

April 8th, 2014

Dear Client,

There have been many great wines auctioned in New York this past year, and many great cellars, but this auction without question possesses the most magnitude we have seen in a while in a New York catalog. We have called **this May 3<sup>rd</sup> sale at Marea 'A Tale of Two Cellars,' dedicated to two of the greatest cellars I know.** Not surprisingly, both collectors are passionate about and have focused on Burgundy. These are two true wine lovers, both of which I have known personally and very well for a long time. Both cellars are, as the Michelin Guide would say for a rare Three-Star restaurant, "worth a special journey." Our collective journeys as wine lovers and drinkers have often overlapped over the last dozen plus years, as each of these gentlemen were eager to be at great wine events all over the world. These are the two greatest Burgundy-focused collections that we have offered in NYC since the phenomenal Don Stott collection, and it seems only right that we are doing it in New York City, as so many of my great tasting experiences from both collections have been in my hometown.



**Our first collector** began his wine buying and collecting days in order to impress a date, a woman now thankfully his wife. I say thankfully not solely because she is a super person, as nice as her husband, but also because she helped him quickly move from those early, brief Mateus and Lancers days to buying his first case of serious wine, the 1982 Lynch Bages. After participating in many tasting groups over the years, he became part of my first, major wine tasting group, and the rest is part history. Our paths crossed numerous times over almost 12 years of what has become a great and lasting friendship. His collection expanded over the years to more than 15,000 bottles, including a remarkable number of the world's greatest producers. All wines have been stored from early days to the present either at professional storage or at home at an ideal 55 degrees and 70% humidity.

Inside this catalog, you will see a consignment that encompasses some of the greatest names in Europe, yet it is Burgundy that became this man's true passion. Make no mistake about it, this is a chance to buy the world's greatest Burgundies from one of the top collectors in the world. Over 40 white Burgundy lots begin that journey, and great names are present: **Niellon, Coche-Dury, Lafon, DRC, Carillon, Ramonet, Drouhin.** 170 red Burgundy lots begin with the magic of **Rousseau**, yet what follows quickly are **the four names that are the bedrocks of those 170 red Burgundy lots: Domaine de la Romanee Conti, Dujac, Leroy and Roumier.** There are dozens of lots of their famous wines and vintages, plus exceptional wines from **Fourrier, Vogue, Mugnier, Faiveley, Jadot and Drouhin.** I know for sure, knowing this cellar and this man for so long, that you will be thrilled with anything and everything you can buy from it.

As I wrote at the outset this is 'A Tale of Two Cellars.' **The second of these two great collections** also comes from one of the nicest and most generous collectors I have ever known. He has been at so many of the great tastings I have

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attended over the years, whether in New York including our legendary Top 100 weekend ten years ago, or with Bipin time and time again in LA, or even in Burgundy itself. He is well known among other great collectors as generous, thoughtful, savvy and eager to taste the best of the best from around the world. As time has gone on, his home in Burgundy has become a greater part of his life, and he is spending more and more time there.

All these wines come from his perfect temperature and humidity-controlled cellars, his own professional storage and home cellar, where he keeps a modest yet choice 3000 bottles. What amazed me the most about this collection was its breadth. There are seemingly three or four bottles of almost every wine one could imagine in a great cellar, spanning numerous vintages every time. It is a cellar that matches his philosophy as a wine drinker and lover, and you will note many great sampler lots accordingly. Of course, he still has a few cases, too ☺. Given how great is his collection, and how wide is his knowledge, it should be no surprise that this collection begins with a stellar selection of Champagne, marked by what is the largest number of bottles of ultra-rare **Bollinger Vieilles Vignes Francaises** that we have offered in years, plus case after case of vintage and rare **Krug**, including Clos du Mesnil and Collection, of course. There is also a outstanding small selection of Bordeaux that begins with a gorgeous bottle of **1945 Mouton** and also offers exceptional **Petrus** of age and youth both, superb **Lafite** and **Haut Brion** and legendary **Yquem**s.

**Burgundy** is where the greatest portion and passion of this consignment is found. **Leflaive, Coche-Dury, Drouhin Montrachet Laguiche, Ramonet, Niellon** and **Lafon** headline 50 superb white Burgundy lots, followed by almost 100 red Burgundy lots. There are **seven DRC Assortments** and **38 DRC lots** total with ten from La Tache, including stunning examples of that iconic vineyard. **Plus the usual DRC suspects** - every vineyard is offered including famous Romanee-Conti vintages. The list of famous and sought after producers and vineyards goes on and on. There is **Rousseau, La Romanee, Roumier, Dujac, Drouhin, Roty, Leroy, Groffier** and a very deep offering of **Ponsot**.

In baseball there are a very, very small number of what are called 'five tool' players, those whose skills across the spectrum are required to be considered among the sport's elite. I use this analogy as I write this letter the opening week of the new baseball season (my fantasy bullpen is killing me already), because this consignment also holds the **best of the best from the Rhone, Italy and Spain** - very famous names and very famous wines including **Guigal** and **Jaboulet, Biondi Santi** and **Soldara, Unico back to 1941** and ending with **1963 Nacional**. This, too, is one of those very rare cellars and collectors. Five tools, simply great on every level.

Enjoy the challenge of deciding what to bid on and buy from each of these great collections. It's a good challenge by any measure, and if you happen to be in New York City that week, let us know. There may be a good reason to come to town early ☺.

In Vino Veritas,

John Kapon  
CEO, Acker Merrall & Condit