



ACKER MERRALL & CONDIT
WINE MERCHANTS SINCE 1820

Dear Client,

On April 8th, the Legendary Collection of **Wolfgang Grunewald** achieved over US\$7 Million in sales, setting 245 World Records, and a new bar for the world's finest and rarest wines. While that auction is arguably the toughest act to follow in the history of wine auctions, I couldn't ask for a better encore than our evening **May 17th** New York auction, which begins at **3pm**. There are over **1200 lots and US\$5 Million** worth of wine available, led by **six spectacular, Featured Collections** that begin with Lot 1. The last of these six superlative cellars is the most featured of the sale, from **the Estate of Sam B. Cook**. Sam was a renowned banker in the Midwest whose love of wine dated back to World War II, and a collector who built his collection the "Old School" way, buying from a few, select, reputable merchants. Mr. Cook also kept receipts going back to the 1960s! This is an extraordinary collection, which I will detail more below.



We don't wait long to get right in the thick of things, as **Lots 1-176 is Part II of a "Wine Odyssey"** thanks to a longstanding collector who began collecting wine shortly after 1982, the year he got married. Its defining element is the sheer breadth of the mature, ideally stored wines from virtually every region that matters to collectors. The magnums of 1955 La Mission are treasures, just as are the 1982 First Growths, although most of them were recently sold in Hong Kong in April (sorry!). Leflaive from the early 1990s, great bottles of Drouhin Montrachet from the 1980s, special Ponsot and Lignier Clos de la Roches from 1991 and 1993, Guigal La Las back to 1978 (and the Rhone back story doesn't end there by any stretch), magnums of 1990 Giacosa Barolo, a deep offering of 1990 Gaja, too, the legendary 1985 Sassicaia in bottles and an OWC of magnums, and an absolutely wonderful and very deep selection of classic, "old school" California cabernets. This is the perfect way to kick off an evening auction, something for everyone!

Lots 177-279 is a collection that I love on many levels. There are over 25 DRC lots for starters. That's always a good way to get me on a second date! There is a jewel of a bottle from Bouchard from the 1865 vintage, Cheval Blanc back to 1915, Yquem back to 1911 amongst numerous Bordeaux from the 1982 vintage. This is a collector whose love for wine began in France, and after a great selection of Veuve Clicquot, we end with some fabulous, older California wines including BV Private Reserve that begins with 1959, Heitz Martha's back to 1967 and Mondavi back to 1969, too. This is a gorgeous collection.

The hits keep on coming, and **Lots 281-352** focus on the best of the best from Europe thanks to a longstanding client. The names and often, too, the formats within are incredibly special. 1964 DRC La Tache, an OWC of 1978 Drouhin Musigny in super-rare Jeroboam, magnums of 1982, 1988 and 1990 Ramonet, the emphatically great 1969, 1993, 1996 and 2002 Rousseau Chambertin and Clos de Beze, 1982 Lafleur and magnums of 1982 La Mission are only a few of the examples of what this collection holds. Giacosa lovers will not want to miss the 1962, 1967, 1982 and 1990 Barolos on offer. Sometimes the simple statement "great collection" is all that should be said. Done.

Lots 353-471 deserve those words, too, in every which way, especially because everything on offer is in its original case. This collection comes from a distinguished gentleman who has been with us since the beginning, almost 20 years! It leads with the twin summits that are OWCs of 1989 Haut Brion and 1989 La Mission, and the Bordeaux offered in this collection has been unrivaled in New York City in

WORLD'S LEADING WINE AUCTIONEERS



ACKER MERRALL & CONDIT
WINE MERCHANTS SINCE 1820

2017. There are cases and Imperials, Double Magnums and Magnums alike of more Haut Brion, Lafite, Latour, Mouton, Margaux and the top Super Seconds from the most famous vintages since 1982. Bordeaux transitions nicely to many top Burgundies, Rhones, Champagne and Californians. It is always significant when we have wines from this collector's cellar in any auction!

Before we get into our final and most Featured collection, we are proud to present two historical verticals from iconic estates in Bordeaux and Burgundy. **A seventy-nine (79!) vintage vertical of 1909-2009 Haut Brion that is Lot 472** is a Bordeaux collector's dream, a true instant collection of arguably the most individual and special of the Bordeaux First Growths. We move to Burgundy with **Lot 473 and a forty bottle vertical (40!) of 1969-2013 Comte de Vogue Musigny Vieilles Vignes**. That vineyard is a very, very special piece of land in Burgundy, and to see its evolution in the hands of its largest owner will make for a wonderful experience. We are ecstatic to offer these two historical lots.

Lots 474-703 is our most featured collection, from the Estate of Sam B. Cook. The collection of Sam B. Cook is one of great depth, note and provenance. A legendary figure in his home state of Missouri, Sam was the son of a wealthy banker, sent in 1942 to Europe for active duty in WWII. Following the Allied victory, Sam served as aide-de-camp to a commanding general presiding over reconstruction efforts in Germany, where he assisted with cataloguing French wines once seized and hidden by the Germans. The wines he sampled during his tenure formed the basis of his palate education, and he returned to the US with a taste for the best of the Old World wines from the classic French producers. Mr. Cook purchased from only the most prominent retail merchants of the time. Invoices for his purchases date back to 1964 and continued for virtually every major purchase since. It is incredibly rare to see records this complete of not only purchases but consumption, and the excellent conditions of these bottles are testament to a passionate and truly dedicated, fastidious collector. The collection features many original cases unopened prior to inspection, some of which sat undisturbed for 30, 40 and in some cases 50 years, all in ideal cellar conditions. **It is far from a cliché to say every lot is a highlight, and we hope you enjoy reading through Lots 474-703 and this lifetime of work.**

May 17th is going to be a good, good night. Please come and join us in person if you can, or curl up with a good bottle over the internet and bid live. This is another spectacular auction that you are not going to want to miss, especially if you know what we are opening up in the room J!

In Vino Veritas,

John Kapon
Chairman, Acker Merrall & Condit Companies