

For immediate release

December 8, 2009



AUCTION

Vins de la  
Tour d'Argent -  
Vente unique  
et d'exception

December 7 & 8  
2009

Marathon Two-Day Sale of Wines and Spirits from the Legendary Cellars of La Tour d'Argent Totals a Spectacular € 1 542 767.

*Exceptional Bottle of 1788 Vieux Cognac from the Cellars of La Tour d'Argent Sold to Benefit Association Petits Princes Fetches €25,000.*

*"When one considers price a main indicator of performance, this sale was an exceptional success," commented André Terrail, President of La Tour d'Argent. "But more than anything else, the auction was about encounters. Just like the bottle which comes out of the cellars to be presented at the table in La Tour d'Argent, every bottle sold in this sale will have to find the right moment and the right atmosphere to be appreciated to the fullest. So buyers not only acquired excellent wines, but also a large part of our history and soul. The past two days were very moving to me."*

Venue :  
Les Salons Hoche  
SALON ÉLYSÉE  
9, avenue Hoche  
Paris 75008



Photographer:  
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**ASSOCIATION**

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**Paris** - The PIASA sale of an exceptional selection of wines from the highly acclaimed caves of La Tour d'Argent, one of France's most revered restaurants, which took place at the Salons Hoche on December 7 and 8, concluded with a grand total of € 1 542 767.

Top lot of the sale was a bottle of Vieux Cognac Le Clos Griffier from 1788 which was offered to benefit Association Petits Princes, a Paris-based charity which makes the dreams of severely ill children come true. The cognac was purchased for €25,000 by a French collector living in London. Bidders and buyers were international with bids coming in from Europe as well as Asia, Russia and the United States.

The selection of 18,000 bottles from the 450,000-bottle-strong cellar was made by Head Sommelier David Ridgway and reflected the unparalleled breadth of the legendary La Tour d'Argent wine cellar, as well as France's profoundly diversified and rich wine tradition as bottles from the most famous Châteaux were offered alongside wines from excellent but far less well known origins.

The sale was followed by ardent wine lovers from all over the world who paid strong prices for exceptional wines such as Château Haut-Brion, 1<sup>er</sup> Cru Pessac-Léognan, 1989 (€6,070 for 12 half bottles);

Château Lafite-Rotschild, 1er Cru Pauillac 1982 (€5,700 for six half bottles);

and Château Latour, 1er Cru Pauillac 1990 (€5,452 for six bottles).

In the spirits section, apart from the 1788 Clos du Griffier sold to benefit Associations Petits Princes, two more bottles of Clos du Griffier from the same year fetched €21,065 and €18,590 while two bottle of grande fine champagne "réserve" Renault 1810 were acquired for €5,575 each.

However, numerous superb bottles were acquired at prices accessible to all budgets. Examples included Château Doisy-Daëne, 2<sup>e</sup> Cru Sauternes 1976 (€185 for three bottles); Château Fieuzal, Pessac-Léognan 1979 (€124 for three bottles) et Pouilly-Fuissé « Tête de Cuvée », Verget 1998 (€310 for twelve bottles).

AMONG THE BORDEAUX HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SALE FEATURE CHÂTEAU LATOUR (1975, 1982, 1985, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1994); CHÂTEAU LAFITE ROTHSCHILD (1970, 1982, 1997); CHÂTEAU CHEVAL BLANC (1928, 1949, 1966); CHÂTEAU MARGAUX (1970, 1990).

FROM THE BURGUNDY REGION, THE SALE OFFERS MEURSAULT CLOS DE LA BARRE LAFON (2004); PULIGNY MONTRACHET REFERTS SAUZET (1992); VOLNAY SANTENOTS LEROY (1969); VOSNE ROMANÉE JAYER (1988).





LOIRE WINES INCLUDE POUILLY FUMÉ SILEX DAGUENEAU (2005); MONTLOUIS REMUS TAILLE AUX LOUPS (1997); VOUVRAY HAUT LIEU HUET (1919) AND CHINON COTEAU DE NOIRE ALLIET (1999).

THE SPIRITS SECTION OFFERS BAS ARMAGNAC JOUANDA (1934); RHUM BALLY (1947); GRANDE FINE CHAMPAGNE MONNET (1858).

Sold : 1 542 767 € Sold by Lot : 100 %

Sold by Value : 100%

### TOP 10

Lot	Description	Estimate €	Price €
 807	Vieux Cognac Clos du Griffier 1788 1 bottle	2 500 / 3 000	25 000 (hammer price)
 808	Vieux Cognac Clos du Griffier 1788 1 bottle	2 500 / 3 000	21 065
 809	Vieux Cognac Clos du Griffier 1788 1 bottle	2 500 / 3 000	18 590
 1306	Vosne Romanée H. Jaye 1988 6 bottles	2 500 / 3 000	6 320
 846	Porto Vintage 'Nacional' Noval 1963 3 bottles	1 300 / 1 500	6 195
 847	Porto Vintage 'Nacional' Noval 1963 3 bottles	1 300 / 1 500	6 195
 1305	Vosne-Romanée H. Jaye 1988 6 bottles	2 500 / 3 000	6 195
 674	Château Haut-Brion, 1 <sup>er</sup> Cru Pessac-Léognan, 1989 12 half-bottles	3 000 / 3 600	6 070
 626	Château Lafite-Rotschild, 1 <sup>er</sup> Cru Pauillac 1982 6 half-bottles	3 000 / 3 300	5 700
 810	Grande Fine Champagne « Réserve » Renault 1810 1 bottle	1 200 / 1 400	5 575

## NOTES TO THE EDITORS:

### ASSOCIATION PETITS PRINCES

Founded in 1987, the Association Petits Princes makes the dreams of children with severe illnesses such as cancer, leukaemia and genetic diseases come true. Through living its passion and seeing its dreams become reality, the child will find a new and strengthening source of energy which will help it in its continuous battle against illness. Since its inception, the Association Petits Princes has supported more than 3,500 children's dreams, in collaboration with 100 paediatric services.  
[www.petitsprinces.com](http://www.petitsprinces.com)

### PIASA

PIASA is one of the leading French auction houses which specializes in offering its clientele a superlative service, characterized by the great expertise and in-depth market knowledge of its associated specialists.

Annually, PIASA organizes around eighty sales which present a wide array of art objects and collectibles, next to highly acclaimed single-owner sales which have become one of the hallmarks of the auction house, including property from the Rothschild family, Dora Maar, Viollet-le-Duc, Louis Jovet and Paul Poiret.

### LA TOUR D'ARGENT

La Tour d'Argent opened in 1582, an elegant building between the Seine and the Bernardins monastery erected in the typical stone from Champagne which gave it its silvery reflection and hence its name. Frequented by the high and mighty from its early beginnings, La Tour d'Argent became a household name in the circles of those who wrote history including Louis XIV; Mme de Sévigné; Philippe d'Orleans; and the Duke of Richelieu. In 1910 the restaurant was bought by André Terrail which started an entirely new epoch and a new chapter in the life of La Tour d'Argent, not in the least by marrying the daughter of Claudius Burdel, owner of the Café Anglais, easily 19<sup>th</sup> century Paris's most prominent restaurant. André Terrail describes how at that time, the union was seen "as the marriage between the quais and the boulevards". The arrival of the new Mme Terrail also added the recipes of Adolphe Dugléré, the chef of the Café Anglais as well as their fabulous wine cellar to the La Tour d'Argent legend.

Prominent guests of the refurbished Tour included Tsar Nicolas II; the Prince of Bismarck; and later Thomas Rockefeller; Randolph Hearst and Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1947 André Terrail handed over the reins of La Tour d'Argent to his son Claude who continued to extend and solidify its worldwide renown and luster.

Under Claude Terrail's leadership, La Tour d'Argent opened a second restaurant in Tokyo's New Otani hotel, La Tour d'Argent in Paris celebrated its 400<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1982, and many more gastronomic and hotellerie additions came under Terrail patronage. In 2005, Claude Terrail received the insignia of the *Grand Officier de l'Ordre National du Merite*. He passed away in 2006 and was succeeded by his son André Terrail whose leadership initiates a new chapter in the illustrious history of La Tour d'Argent. A fine-tuning process which aims at aligning La Tour d'Argent with the new culinary and lifestyle tastes of today's generation is the credo to which André Terrail, Chef Stéphane Haissant and Head Sommelier David Ridgway adhere.

It is under his leadership that the Japanese branch of La Tour d'Argent will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

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