

# 163<sup>e</sup> VENTE DES VINS DES HOSPICES DE BEAUNE

BEAUNE, France 22nd September 2023

## 163rd Hospices de Beaune wine sale

*"The sale of Hospices de Beaune wines is an extraordinary adventure  
for the women and men practising their healthcare profession in our region."*

Together with Sotheby's, the world's leading wine auctioneer, the Hospices Civils de Beaune is organising the 163rd wine auction on Sunday 19 November 2023. The 60-hectare estate, in its third and final year of organic conversion, will be auctioning the vintages it has produced to help fund major investments in the hospital. To mark the occasion, a charity item known as the "Pièce des Présidents" will be sold in aid of two associations supporting the cause of ageing well.

***Alain Suguenot, Mayor of Beaune and Chairman of the Hospices Civils de Beaune Supervisory Board***

"This 163rd Hospices de Beaune wine auction is a charity sale, with all the proceeds going to fund investments by the hospital, which is currently carrying out a number of major projects.

We will be witnessing a sale that promises to be a major event, and which this year will champion the cause of "ageing well". The charity item, known as the "Presidents' Piece", will be dedicated to research into the theme of ageing well.

It will focus in particular on research into the brain and genes that can delay the ageing process."

**Marie-Catherine Moraillon, Acting Director of Hospices Civils de Beaune**

“Ageing well is a key theme at the Hospices Civils de Beaune. In fact, the hospital is involved in a regional project for seniors with the EHPADs of the Groupement Hospitalier de Territoire du Sud Côte d'Or. The primary aim of this initiative is to adapt the care and support offered to the needs of the elderly, to enable them to remain at home, in good health, for as long as possible.

To mark the sale of the charity coin known as the "Pièce des Présidents", the Hospices Civils de Beaune is taking action on this public health issue.

The institution will support one or more associations involved in prevention and preserving the independence of ageing people through the proceeds from the sale of this unique charity coin, known as the "Pièce des Présidents".

Beyond caring for people and maintaining their quality of life, if possible, at home, one of the challenges for the future is to provide a scientific response to the ageing of the population.

That's why, for the 163rd sale, the projects selected will include a strong element of research and prevention to combat ageing and the pathologies of old age, and to propose solutions to improve longevity in good health.”

**Marie-Anne Ginoux, Managing Director Sotheby's France**

“On the occasion of this new edition of the Hospices de Beaune sale and the third consecutive year under the gavel of Sotheby's, we are pleased to announce the organisation of a series of exceptional tastings around the world (Hong Kong, Taipei, Singapore, Houston, Los Angeles and Mexico City) to further enhance the reputation of the Hospices and showcase the excellence of its expertise internationally.

Last year's record sale result is a perfect illustration of the steady growth in sales of Burgundy wines and our position as world leader in wine and spirits, with a record total of 158 million dollars in auction sales in 2022.”

**Ludivine Griveau, Manager of the Hospices de Beaune wine estate**

This year there are two major themes, reflecting the highlights of the Hospices de Beaune wine-growing estate: the third year on the road to organic conversion and the 2023 vintage.

- **Third and final year on the road to organic conversion**

*“Given the difficulties and adversity of this 2023 vintage, if we succeed this year organically, I'm sure we'll be able to make quite a few!”*

“The process of converting the entire estate to organic production (50 hectares of reds and 11 hectares of whites) has been underway for three years, and it's undoubtedly a necessary period that will enable us to up-grade our tools. Our teams, who were already extremely involved, are continuing to rally and are making this a priority area of their work. In this, our third year, we have achieved a uniform approach to cultivation, and this human level of commitment is fundamental to running a 60-hectare estate. When this unity becomes a strength and a very positive dynamic, it's very powerful for moving forward.

Vineyard management needs to adapt to the climate, consumer expectations and the challenges of tomorrow, and to do that we need the support of our long-standing partners, the Côte d'Or Chamber of Agriculture and the Bio Bourgogne group.

The 2023 vintage is undoubtedly a good one to end an organic conversion with.

The winery is now in its final year of organic conversion, with a view to obtaining the organic label for Hospices de Beaune wines in 2024.”

- **A diverse and surprising 2023 vintage**

“The 2023 vintage began with an extremely mild winter and very little rain, so there was a clear water deficit until February.

This situation was reversed in the spring and the vines never ran out of water thanks to the clay-limestone soils, which capture and store water.

The storms that followed had a significant impact, particularly on 11 July over a fairly narrow area, which saved the vineyards from disaster.

After that, things were fairly calm until the heatwave in September, which I would describe as a climatic hazard.

As a result, all these climatic factors meant that our decisions in the vineyards were not linear. Very quickly, the quantity was such that we thought we'd have a harvest close to 2022, but the diverse rainfall, water conditions and the context of the weather meant that the growth of the vines was very slow.

The vines were irregular within the same plot or from one plot to another. 2023 should therefore be singled out for its highly diverse nature.

The 2023 harvest, which began on 6 September in Pouilly-Fuissé and finished on 19 September in Saint Romain and Monthelie, was meticulously sorted both in the vineyards and in the winery to ensure that the quality of the grapes met the estate's high standards. The focus was firmly on quality rather than quantity.

At present, the vinification is going very well, with the whites fermenting efficiently and a fairly severe settling to remove the lees, which were not of sufficient quality. The juices are fairly clear and are fermenting as usual in barrels on the basis of a whole, uncrushed harvest.

The whites can be described as very pure aromatically, with good body, quite voluptuous on the palate, and good levels of acidity.

The 100% de-stemmed reds are already showing lovely colour and polyphenolic richness. They are in vats for two to three weeks of maceration. They seem round and fruity, and the tannins derived from the pips and skins are likely to be silky and round. The smell of red fruit is already wafting through the winery.

This year's charity barrel, known as the "Pièce des Présidents", will bring together three key players in the timber industry. We have been asked by the d'Harcourt family, owners of the forest estate in the Vibraye forest, to produce a very special cask that will contain an equally extraordinary wine. The barrel will be made from the wood of an oak tree that was also used to restore the spire of Notre Dame in Paris. A remaining part of this tree was entrusted to the Barraud stave mill in Charente and then to the Cadus cooperage to make the barrel."

**Bernard d'Harcourt, *Manager of the Domaine de Vibraye forestry group (Sarthe)***

"In 2019, when the spire of Notre Dame in Paris burned down, we discovered that it could be rebuilt identically in wood, thanks to a study by the chief architect of historic monuments, Rémi Fromont.

In 2021, the d'Harcourt family decided to donate 10 prestigious trees for the restoration of the cathedral's nave and spire. One of these 220-year-old trees from the Vibraye forest measured 19 metres, whereas the architects only needed 15.5 metres.

At that point, my father and I decided to donate the remaining amount for the charity piece known as the "Presidents' Piece".

I then contacted Mr Barraud, a stave-maker in Charente for four generations, to entrust him with this wood and split it into staves.

The d'Harcourt family donated the staves to the Hospices de Beaune. The Cadus cooperage, based near Beaune in Ladoix-Serrigny, was then asked to make the barrel.

This project is a great achievement. In 2023, the charity coin known as the "Pièces des Présidents" will have its eastern counterpart in the spire of Notre Dame in Paris."

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**Press conference**

**Wednesday 25 October 2023 at 11am - At Sotheby's**

76, rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré - Paris 8e

**163<sup>rd</sup> Hospices de Beaune wine sale**

**Sunday 19 November 2023 at 2pm**

Halles de Beaune

### **About Hospices Civils de Beaune**

The history of the Hospices Civils de Beaune began in 1443 when Nicolas Rolin and Guigone de Salins decided to build a hospital: the Hôtel-Dieu. The founders' charity and patronage established a tradition that has enabled the Hospices de Beaune to survive throughout history in exceptional conditions. Today, the Hospices Civils de Beaune comprises the hospital centres of Beaune, Arnay-le-Duc, Seurre and Nuits-St-Georges. The Philippe Le Bon Hospital in Beaune is the support facility for the Groupement Hospitalier de Territoire du Sud Côte-d'Or.

The originality of this hospital institution lies in the size and nature of its assets, which include, on the one hand, a historic monument, the 15th-century Hôtel-Dieu, which has not welcomed patients or elderly residents since the early 1980s; and, on the other hand, a prestigious 60-hectare Beaune wine-growing estate of the best Burgundy appellations. All these vineyards come from bequests and donations, and their production is auctioned every year on the 3rd Sunday in November, as part of the world's most famous charity sale. Thanks to its heritage, this hospital plays a leading role in the two major activities of Beaune and its region: tourism and wine.

The auction, which can include more than 500 lots, is the most famous and oldest charity wine auction in the world (1859). True to its founding values, each year the Hospices de Beaune supports a charity by donating the profits from the sale of a piece of wine, known as the "Pièce du Président". Proceeds from the sale of this wine are ear-marked for the upkeep of the hospital's heritage and the modernisation of its equipment and buildings.

### **About Sotheby's Wine**

Established in 1744, Sotheby's is the world's premier destination for art and luxury. Sotheby's promotes access to and ownership of exceptional art and luxury objects through auctions and buy-now channels including private sales, e-commerce and retail. Our trusted global marketplace is supported by an industry-leading technology platform and a network of specialists spanning 40 countries and 70 categories which include Contemporary Art, Modern and Impressionist Art, Old Masters, Chinese Works of Art, Jewelry, Watches, Wine and Spirits, and Design, as well as collectible cars and real estate. Sotheby's believes in the transformative power of art and culture and is committed to making our industries more inclusive, sustainable and collaborative.

Sotheby's Wine's annual worldwide auction sales of wine and spirits achieved a record total of \$158 million in 2022, a 20% increase from 2021. Sotheby's currently holds the world records for any whisky collection ever sold at auction, any private wine collection ever sold at auction, the most valuable bottle of wine ever sold at auction and the most valuable bottle of spirits ever sold at auction, in addition to the highest ever total for a charity wine auction.

In addition to auction, Sotheby's Wine launched a retail business in 2010. With a retail store located in Sotheby's New York headquarters and e-commerce at [www.sothebyswine.com](http://www.sothebyswine.com), Sotheby's Wine offers a carefully curated selection of wines from the world's most prestigious producers and important regions. Expertly assembled by our experienced specialists, the selection is built upon lasting relationships with winemakers from across the globe, with bottles that are ready for immediate consumption, in addition to investment-worthy wines from highly sought-after vintages. A second retail location opened in Sotheby's Hong Kong galleries in 2014.

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