

# Contents of the 2023 Charity Piece

## Hospices de Beaune Estate

-

*A showcase for the expertise of three key players in the timber industry*

The Hospices Civils de Beaune and Sotheby's, the world leader in wine auctions, are 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, the charity barrel, known as the "Pièce des Présidents", a Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru, the barrel of which was made from the wood of an oak tree used to restore the spire of Notre Dame in Paris, will be sold in aid of the Fondation pour la Recherche Médicale (FRM) and the Initiative de Recherche pour une Longévité en Bonne Santé (IRLB).

*Like the oak that withstands the seasons, the forester who cares for its growth, and the artisanal know-how passed down from generation to generation, all participants in the wood industry cultivate the concept of "Aging gracefully."*

*Derived from an exceptional bicentennial oak tree, the cask of the 2023 Charity Vintage will find its counterpart in the spire of Notre Dame. This historic and unique opportunity brings together an entire industry, filled with enthusiasts eager to share their expertise in the world of winemaking through their contribution to the aging of fine wines with such an extraordinary gift.*

After the emotion of the Notre Dame fire on the night of April 15-16, 2019, the d'Harcourt family acts by donating 10 prestigious trees for the restoration of the nave and spire of the cathedral. Among these 220-year-old trees from the Vibraye forest, one of them measured 19 meters while builders only needed 15.5 meters. Bernard d'Harcourt decided to donate the remaining volume to the Hospices de Beaune Charity Auction.

In the hands of the same family since 1510, the private forest of Vibraye (Sarthe) has always been open to the public with the intention of preserving a high level of multifunctionality. The d'Harcourt family ensures the sustainability of this unique space through the practice of continuous covered mixed silvestry.

This practice aims to leave standing volume to manage light, preserving soil water reserves and thus reducing soil stress for the trees. Simultaneously, biodiversity preservation (bats, amphibians, etc.) is at the heart of the project, with the maintenance of species diversity and deadwood. This forest is the only one in its region to be part of the Natura 2000 Zone.

The bicentennial oak stave was entrusted to Barraud's cooperage, a small artisanal business located in Charente, which is celebrating its 40th year in the cooperage industry this year. Its manager, Mr. Barraud, is the fourth generation of this family-owned company specializing in wood processing.

The crafting of the barrel was carried out in the heart of Burgundy by Tonnellerie Cadus. With one foot in the forests and the other in the vineyards, the cooperage stands at the crossroads of an entire industry. Beyond preserving traditional French craftsmanship, Tonnellerie Cadus had the privilege of working with these unique oak woods, a living material that, much like the vine, requires precision and expertise to be tamed. The demands, the patience inherent to the craft, and the expertise of the entire wood industry converge in the creation of this one-of-a-kind and exceptional charity piece for the 2023 vintage.

This beautiful setting will be home to one of the most prestigious Grand Crus of the Côte de Nuits and the Domaine des Hospices de Beaune, a Mazis-Chambertin whose parcel covers more than 1.7 hectares.

Perfectly ripe and in excellent health, this year's grapes were harvested on 18 and 19 September 2023.

The wine has a deep ruby colour. The bouquet is intensely fruity, reflecting the perfect aromatic maturity typical of this fine vintage.

The tannins are both velvety and full-bodied. Already, elegance and refinement are the watchwords of this exceptional wine in the service of a great cause.