

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

Press release

Thursday 19 September 2024

**The 164th Hospices de Beaune wine auction, organised by Sotheby's, the world's leading wine and spirits auctioneer, will be held on the third Sunday in November, 17 November, in Les Halles in the heart of Beaune.**

**On Wednesday 18 September 2024, the Hospices de Beaune organised an exceptional press day, during which the Hospices Civils de Beaune presented the destination of the funds to be raised by the auction, future investments and the major challenges ahead. It was also an opportunity to unveil a preview of the illustration created specifically to be the image of the 164th auction.**

**Ludivine Griveau, manager of the Hospices de Beaune winegrowing estate, talks about the challenges and issues involved in converting to organic production, which will be awarded the label at the end of the 2024 harvest after three years of conversion on the 60-hectare estate.**

**Guillaume Koch, Director and Chairman of the Board of Hospices Civils de Beaune**

"This year, our press day is more immersive, focusing on wine and the 2024 harvest, with two highlights: the first in the heart of the winery and the second in a plot of vines on the Hospices de Beaune wine estate".

### *Major investments in health*

"The Hospices de Beaune embodies three entities: a public hospital, a tourist site and a wine estate. All of which require ongoing investment to modernise and improve working conditions. This is why a major construction project will be starting very soon, with the building of a new 15,000 square-metre building with a budget of 86 million euros and scheduled to open in 2028. This new structure will make it possible to leave the first building of the modern era, which dates from 1971 and was inaugurated by Georges Pompidou, for a structure that is better suited to receiving and caring for our patients.

This flagship project is partly funded by the wine sale, the next edition of which will take place on Sunday 17 November in the Halles de Beaune, in the heart of the town, and will support the One Health theme, accompanied by one or more associations. One Health, an integrated approach aimed at prevention and balancing ecosystems to protect people's health".

### *From photo to illustration*

"This press day is finally the opportunity to unveil the visual for this 164th Wine Sale. The Hospices Civils de Beaune have chosen an illustration by artist Christophe Merlin, created specifically to be the image of the 164th Sale. It's a change in continuity, reflecting and expressing the values of charity and hospitality that the institution has upheld for almost 600 years. The

Hospices Civils de Beaune are determined to make a lasting impression at this 164th sale, and have taken a new graphic direction to renew the appeal of the auction to insiders and capture the interest of newcomers".

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

"On the occasion of this new edition of the Hospices de Beaune sale and for the fourth consecutive year under the aegis of Sotheby's, we are pleased to announce the organisation of a series of exceptional tastings around the world (Seoul, Dubai, Taichung and Fort Lauderdale). Each year, these events give us the opportunity to forge new links with buyers and showcase Hospices de Beaune wines. In this way, the reputation of the Hospices de Beaune is further enhanced and the excellence of its expertise is showcased internationally.

The result of last year's record-breaking sale is a perfect illustration of the continued growth of Burgundy wine sales and our position as the world's leading wine and spirits auctioneer with a record total of \$159 million in sales in 2023. Since we began working with Hospices de Beaune in 2021, the number of bidders has increased by more than 20% compared to the first sale, and last year we saw the engagement of enthusiasts in at least 21 countries around the world. We are honoured to continue this adventure alongside the Hospices de Beaune for this 164th wine auction.

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

"This final year of organic conversion has been a real challenge for an estate covering 60 hectares and represents the culmination of several years' work, which began in 2017. These years of conversion have been a success, since the wines from the Hospices de Beaune estate were certified organic in 2024, when they left the winery.

The 2024 vintage, which was marked by heavy rainfall - 87% more than a normal year - meant that our decision-making was constantly in turmoil. But our organisation enabled us to be highly efficient and to provide optimum protection for our 60-hectare vineyard. This is thanks to the constant mobilisation and involvement of our teams. Harvesting at the estate began with the Pouilly-Fuissé plots on 11 September, followed by the pinot noir in Côte d'Or on 13 September. It is currently continuing with the chardonnay and will finish on 22 September with the grand crus from Corton and Échezeaux.

To date, the Hospices de Beaune wine estate is expecting a small harvest, largely due to cold temperatures in May, late flowering of the pinot noir and mildew.

The Pinot Noir grapes in vats are showing excellent aromatic ripeness, with very good, encouraging aromas and lovely aromatic freshness. Lacy tannins and aromatic freshness!

The Chardonnay grapes are not very golden, but have interesting aromatic flavours.

See you in Paris on 23 October at Sotheby's to find out how many of these wines will be up for auction!

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### **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 earmarked for the upkeep of the hospital's heritage and the modernisation of its equipment and buildings.

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