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Christie’s will auction 400 wine lots from Maison Joseph Drouhin’s cellars

The online sale, marking Christie’s wine department’s 60th anniversary, runs Nov. 3 to Nov. 17 with rare estate-held bottles.

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Christie’s said Thursday that it will mark the 60th anniversary of its wine department with an online sale of rare bottles from the private collection of Maison Joseph Drouhin, offering more than 400 lots drawn directly from the family’s historic cellars.

The sale is scheduled to run from Nov. 3 through Nov. 17 and will include wines from Burgundy and Oregon, reflecting both the Drouhin family's long-established holdings in France and its later expansion into the United States through Domaine Drouhin Oregon. Christie's said the collection spans more than six decades, from older Burgundy vintages to more recent releases.

The auction house is presenting the sale as both an anniversary event for its wine business and a rare release from one of Burgundy's best-known producers. The wines, according to Christie's, have remained in the Drouhin family's own cellars, a point the company emphasized as central to the sale's appeal in a market where provenance often drives buyer interest and value.

Edwin Vos, senior international director and head of collections at Christie's Wine and Spirits, said the sale was chosen as a landmark event for the department's anniversary. In a statement released by the auction house, he described the offering as a rare look inside the family's own reserves, citing mature wines from the 1978 vintage, large-format bottles and selections from vineyards in both Burgundy and Oregon.

Maison Joseph Drouhin is one of the best-known names in Burgundy, with a portfolio that ranges across major appellations and includes red and white wines from some of the region's most sought-after sites. The family also established Domaine Drouhin Oregon in the Dundee Hills, bringing its Burgundian winemaking approach to the Willamette Valley. Christie's said the upcoming sale is intended to show the breadth of that history by including both French and American wines.

Among the lots highlighted by the auction house is a 1978 Musigny jeroboam, with a presale estimate of £12,000 to £17,000. Christie's also pointed to a bottle of Chambertin-Clos de Bèze, estimated at £2,000 to £2,800, and a 2009 Vosne-Romanée Les Petits Monts jeroboam from Véronique Drouhin's private vineyard, estimated at £1,600 to £2,200.

The sale also includes several large-format bottles, a category that often attracts collectors because of its rarity and its association with extended aging and ceremonial use. Christie's said those lots include a Musigny 2024 jeroboam estimated at £4,000 to £5,000, a Montrachet Marquis de Laguiche 2006 Salmanazar-Methuselah estimated at

£1,100 to £2,200, and a Beaune Clos des Mouches Blanc 2009 large-format lot with an estimate of £1,600. From Oregon, Christie’s identified a Domaine Drouhin Oregon Pinot Noir, Dundee Hills 1990, estimated at £300 to £400.

By drawing directly from the producer’s own reserves, the auction differs from many fine-wine sales that assemble consignments from multiple private collectors. Christie’s said the bottles were carefully preserved in the Drouhin family’s historic cellars, a detail likely to matter to bidders focused on storage history and authenticity.

The auction house did not announce an overall estimate for the sale, but the range of bottles suggests it is aimed at several layers of buyers, from top-tier Burgundy collectors seeking rare mature vintages and large formats to bidders interested in older Oregon wines with estate provenance. The inclusion of bottles from the late 20th century as well as young releases also broadens the offering beyond buyers focused only on trophy lots.

For Christie’s, the sale comes as the company uses a high-profile producer consignment to mark a milestone for a department that has operated for six decades. Wine auctions have become increasingly global and digital over that period, and the online-only format of the Drouhin sale reflects how major auction houses now market rare bottles to international buyers without requiring an in-room event.

For the Drouhin family, the release represents a sale of bottles that carry both commercial and personal significance. In remarks shared by Christie’s, the family said it was parting with the collection “with difficulty but also with immense pleasure,” adding that the wines represent family memories and individual vintages shaped over time.

Christie’s said the offering will present wines not only from the family’s vineyards but also from the depth and diversity of its cellar holdings. That means buyers will be bidding on a selection intended to show the range of Maison Joseph Drouhin rather than a narrow group of flagship labels, with bottles linked to different generations, sites and periods in the family’s winemaking history.