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A Beaune auction offers 36 Henri Jayer bottles from a single cellar

The bottles, bought directly from the estate, are estimated at 91,000 euros to 138,300 euros before fees

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A private cellar holding 36 bottles from Domaine Henri Jayer was offered at auction in Beaune on Nov. 13, highlighting the enduring demand for one of Burgundy's most closely watched names. The sale, organized by Landre-Beaune on the eve of the Hospices de Beaune weekend, carried a provisional estimate of 91,000 euros to 138,300 euros before fees.

The group stood out for its single-owner provenance. According to the auction house, the seller bought the bottles directly from the estate and kept them in the same private cellar since then. In the market for collectible Burgundy, where provenance and storage history can shape prices as much as vintage quality, that origin formed a central part of the sale's appeal.

The story behind the collection goes back to April 1984, when a tasting club traveled through Burgundy and visited Henri Jayer at Vosne-Romanée. During that visit, Jayer opened his cellar, poured wines for the group and described the methods that came to define his work. A written account from one club member, still kept by the owner, recorded Jayer's views on controlled yields, short pruning, destemming, aging in new oak barrels and his refusal to filter the wines.

That document also preserved tasting impressions from the visit, including notes on 1982 Vosne-Romanée, Cros Parantoux, Les Brûlées, Échezeaux and Richebourg, along with a 1978 Échezeaux. One note described the 1982 Cros Parantoux as finer and more closed at the time. The wines tasted in April 1984 were not the same vintages later placed in the sale, but the account helped trace the owner's direct connection to the estate and the start of a collecting relationship that lasted more than four decades.

Henri Jayer, who died in 2006, remains one of the most influential figures in 20th century Burgundy. His name is closely tied to Cros Parantoux, a small premier cru site in Vosne-Romanée whose global standing rose sharply through his work. Jayer's approach, centered on careful farming and precise cellar practices, shaped later generations of producers. Because the estate's wines were made in small quantities, they remain among the most sought-after bottles in the fine wine market.

The Nov. 13 offering was built around that reputation. Twenty-one of the 36 bottles were Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Cros Parantoux from the 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1994 vintages. Each bottle carried an estimate of 4,000 euros to 6,000 euros, making that label the core of the sale.

The rest of the group added breadth without changing the sale's focus on rarity and continuity of origin. It included five bottles of Échezeaux Grand Cru from 1987 and 1988, four bottles of Vosne-Romanée 1er Cru Les Brûlées 1986 and six bottles of

Vosne-Romanée village 1988. The Échezeaux and Les Brûlées bottles were estimated at 1,000 euros to 1,500 euros each, while the Vosne-Romanée village bottles were estimated at 500 euros to 800 euros each.

Landre-Beaune presented the bottles individually rather than as a single parcel, a choice that allowed buyers to compete for a specific vintage or appellation instead of the full cellar. That format can broaden bidding in a market where collectors often target a narrow set of producers, years or vineyard sites. For this sale, the auction house relied on three main selling points: the scarcity of Henri Jayer bottles, the fact that all 36 came from one cellar and the documentation linking the collection back to a direct visit to the estate.

Before the auction, the bottles were available for viewing by appointment through Nov. 12 and on Nov. 13 at Landre-Beaune’s premises on Rue de Chevignerot in Beaune. The house said bidders could participate in the room, by telephone or online after registering.