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White Wine Prices Fell 31.36% at the Hospices de Beaune Charity Auction

Red wines rose 5.55%, underscoring a sharp split in buyer demand at the annual Burgundy benchmark

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The average price of white wines fell sharply at the Hospices de Beaune charity wine auction on November 15, while red wines posted a modest increase, creating one of the clearest splits in this year’s results from the closely watched Burgundy sale.

According to results reported at the close of the 166th auction, white wines sold for an average of 40,576 euros per barrel, down 31.36% from 2025. Red wines reached an average of 29,014 euros per barrel, up 5.55% from a year earlier. Across all wines, the published average was 31,284 euros, a decline of 7.99%.

The figures came from results announced in Beaune after several hours of bidding. The annual sale is organized around the wines of the Hospices Civils de Beaune, a hospital institution that also owns a vineyard estate of about 60 hectares in Burgundy. Proceeds from the auction help finance hospital investment and the preservation of the institution’s historic assets, giving the event a role that goes beyond the fine-wine market.

The sale was held in a year of tighter supply. The Hospices offered 432 barrels of wine and two smaller lots, about 100 fewer barrels than in 2025. The reduced offering followed a harvest affected by drought and unusually early picking, according to the results summary released after the auction. In that setting, lower volumes and a more uncertain economic backdrop did not produce a uniform market reaction. Buyers pushed red barrels slightly higher on average, while white barrels lost substantial ground.

Using the published percentages and rounded average prices, the white-wine result implies a drop of roughly 18,500 euros per barrel from 2025. For reds, the increase works out to about 1,500 euros per barrel. Those back calculations are approximate because the auction’s published averages and rates were rounded.

The contrast is notable because the Hospices de Beaune sale is treated as a reference point for high-end Burgundy, even if it is not a direct price index for the region as a whole. The mix of wines offered changes from year to year, and average prices can be heavily influenced by the specific cuvées and quantities available in a given edition. That makes the white-red gap important as a signal of buyer behavior at this auction, but not a simple measure of the broader Burgundy market.

The results also showed that demand remained strong for selected wines despite the smaller harvest. Buyers from France and abroad continued to compete for top lots, maintaining the international character of the sale. Sotheby’s again handled the

auction, which drew collectors, merchants and trade participants to Beaune.

Part of the attention centered on the charity barrel, known as the Pièce des Présidents. This year it was a Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru, offered for the first time as the sale’s charity lot. Brazilian buyer Alaor Pereira Lino secured it for 770,000 euros after extended bidding. An additional donation of 230,000 euros from Erwan Faiveley brought the final amount for the charity lot to 1 million euros, a record for that portion of the event. The beneficiaries were ARSLA, which works against ALS, also known as Charcot disease in France, and DEBRA France, which supports people affected by epidermolysis bullosa.

For the Hospices Civils de Beaune, the auction remains a major source of funding at a time when the institution is investing in hospital infrastructure, including a new inpatient building project. That financial role helps explain why the sale is followed not only by wine buyers, but also by local officials, hospital managers and residents in Burgundy.

The published breakdown of the auction included a small discrepancy in the headline overall total, so the clearest takeaway from the initial results was the divergence between colors: white Burgundy from the Hospices de Beaune sold for much less on average than a year earlier, while the red wines held their ground and moved slightly higher.