vinetur

Hospices de Beaune wine auction raised €14.4 million after a heat-stricken Burgundy harvest cut volumes

The presidential barrel fetched €770,000, with added donations lifting support for Arsla and Debra France to a record €1 million

Wednesday, November 18, 2026



The 166th Hospices de Beaune wine auction raised €14.4 million on Nov. 15 in Beaune, Burgundy, a lower total than the €18.8 million recorded in 2025 and well below the €28.9 million peak reached in 2022, as a smaller harvest shaped this year's sale.

The auction, one of the world's oldest charity wine events, was conducted by Sotheby's and drew buyers from more than 30 countries. Organizers said the sale reflected a 2026 growing season marked by prolonged heat and drought, which reduced volumes even as it produced wines they described as distinctive and high in quality.

The headline lot, the Pièce des Présidents, sold for €770,000 to Alaor Pereira Lino, head of Anima Vinum Brazil. After the hammer fell, the Faiveley family added a supplemental donation of €230,000 in tribute to hospital workers, bringing the total raised for this year's beneficiary charities, Arsla and Debra France, to €1 million. Organizers said that was a record for the charitable portion of the sale.

This year's charity barrel also marked a first for the auction. For the first time, the Pièce des Présidents was a Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru, one of the best-known grand cru wines of the Côte de Nuits.

The Hospices de Beaune sale began in 1859, when the institution decided to auction wines from its estate to help finance medical care and maintain its historic hospitals. That structure remains in place. Aside from the charity lot, proceeds from the sale go to the Hospices Civils de Beaune hospital system.

Officials said money raised this year will help fund a broad digital modernization program, including a new electronic medical records system, investment in laboratory and imaging equipment, and new digital services intended to make information more accessible to patients, families and the public.

A total of 450 lots were offered this year, down from 552 in 2025. The sale included 348 barrels from 34 red wines, 84 barrels and two half-barrels from 18 white wines, 12 barrels and three half-barrels of spirits, in addition to the presidential charity lot.

The smaller offering was tied to the 2026 vintage. According to the estate, the season was exceptionally early and shaped by 53 days of extreme heat. Harvesting began on Aug. 15 in Pouilly-Fuissé, Beaune and Meursault, the earliest start ever recorded in the history of the Domaine des Hospices de Beaune, and ended on Aug. 24 in the Côte de Nuits.

The lower volume weighed on the total value of the sale, but demand remained strong. Organizers said 357 bidders registered for the auction, and for the sixth straight year the average price per barrel, excluding the Pièce des Présidents, stayed above €30,000. The average reached €31,156 in 2026.

Red wines performed better than whites. The average price for red barrels rose 5% from 2025 to €28,931, while the average for white barrels fell to €39,893 from €58,580 in 2025.

Several lots set new records. A barrel of Mazis-Chambertin Grand Cru, Cuvée Madeleine Collignon, sold for €185,000. A barrel of Meursault Premier Cru Les Genevrières, Cuvée Philippe Le Bon, reached €75,000. A barrel of Pommard Premier Cru Les Epenots, Cuvée Dom Goblet, sold for €40,000. Sotheby’s and the Hospices said Pommard village and premier cru wines were especially well received, with four of five cuvées in that group setting auction records.

Guillaume Koch, director and chairman of the executive board of the Hospices Civils de Beaune, said the outcome was broadly in line with expectations given the amount of wine available for sale. He said the market had recognized the quality of the red wines, while prices for top white wines had adjusted after stronger levels in prior years.

Koch also said the result came after a year of multiple challenges and a difficult economic backdrop. He welcomed the €1 million raised for Arsla and Debra France, two groups that support people affected by rare diseases.

Marie-Anne Ginoux, Sotheby’s France chief executive, said the result showed the continuing international appeal of the Hospices de Beaune sale. She said Sotheby’s had presented the wines to clients around the world throughout the year and saw that work reflected in bidding in Beaune.

Celian Ravel d’Estienne, Sotheby’s France wine sales director, said the 2026 vintage showed notable depth and character in both reds and whites, and that the selection of a Clos de Vougeot Grand Cru for the charity lot gave this year’s edition unusual importance.

Ludivine Griveau, who oversees the Hospices de Beaune wine estate, described the sale as mixed but satisfying, saying its uneven pattern mirrored a vintage marked by uncertainty and resilience.

The auction’s public profile was also boosted by the attendance of French actress Mélanie Doutey and French comedy duo Eric and Ramzy, who helped spotlight the charity lot during the event in Beaune.