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Bonhams Hong Kong sets global Wine & Spirits sales record with HK$61 million series

A bottle of The Dalmore 62-Year-Old sold for HK$3.125 million, the highest auction price for the distillery

Wednesday, November 25, 2026



Bonhams Hong Kong said it brought in HK$61 million, or about US$7.8 million, from its November Fine Wine & Spirits series, a two-day run of four live auctions held on November 20 and November 21. The auction house said the result was the highest total ever for a single sales series in Bonhams' global Wine & Spirits department.

The sales were driven by two single-owner wine collections, a debut ex-domaine offering from Liber Pater and a whisky auction that included a rare bottle of The Dalmore 62-Year-Old. Bonhams said all 20 lots in the Liber Pater sale found buyers and that the Dalmore bottle sold for HK$3,125,000, or about US$400,000, setting what the company described as a world auction record for any single bottle from the distillery.

In a statement, Amayès Aouli, Bonhams' global head of Wine & Spirits, said the turnout in the room and bidding from abroad pointed to continued demand at the top end of the market. He said the result reflected the company's emphasis on curation, quality and provenance, as well as support from consignors and buyers.

Terrence Tang, Bonhams' head of Wine & Spirits for Asia, said collectors from across the region took part in person, online and by phone. He said the sales showed strong demand in Asia from both established buyers and newer collectors entering the fine wine and rare spirits market.

The largest total in the series came from The Olympus Cellar: The Gods, held on November 20. Bonhams said the sale brought in HK$34 million and sold 97% of lots. The auction opened a multi-part series that the company said will continue through 2027 and draws from a single-owner cellar of more than 40,000 bottles built over about 50 years. The top lot was a 12-bottle case of Domaine Leroy Richebourg 2009, which sold for HK$812,500, or about US$104,000.

A second major wine sale, The Extravagant Collection of a Hedonist: Fine Wine Edition, was held on November 21. Bonhams said it realized HK$14 million and sold 95% of lots. The top lot in that auction was two bottles of Domaine Leroy Musigny 2011, which sold for HK$562,500, or about US$72,000.

Another sale on November 21 focused on Liber Pater, the Bordeaux estate founded by Loïc Pasquet. Bonhams said the auction, titled Liber Pater Jubilee: 20 Years of Wine History in Motion, marked two decades since the estate's first vintage and highlighted Pasquet's work with ungrafted vines and older grape varieties in an effort to recreate 19th-century Bordeaux styles. The company said the sale drew bidding from Asia, Europe, the United Kingdom and North America and sold every lot offered.

Among the higher-priced Liber Pater items was an 11-liter bottle of Liber Pater 2020, housed in what Bonhams described as an original mid-18th-century bottle and sold with a private estate visit. That lot fetched HK$1,500,000, or about US$191,000.

The whisky portion of the series, Whisky Masterpieces: The Curation of Rarity, produced one of the headline results. Bonhams said The Dalmore 62-Year-Old was one of only 12 bottles ever produced. The bottle was created in 2002 by master distiller Richard Paterson and blended from four vintages ranging from 1868 to 1939, with the youngest component aged for 62 years before bottling.

Bonhams said the live sales will be followed by two online auctions. The Extravagant Collection of a Hedonist: Fine Wine Online is scheduled to close on December 2, and Spirits Rarity: Featuring The Extravagant Collection of a Hedonist is set to close on December 3.