

SALE OF THE WEEK

Dine with the best wine

Sale: Hart-Davis-Hart
 Fine Wine

Location: Tru Restaurant,
 676 North Saint Clair
 Street, Chicago.
 Tel: +1 312-482 9996.
 Catalogue and real-time
 bidding available online at
 www.hdhwine.com

Date: Saturday, February 2.

Need to Know: Founded as
 a wine retailer in October
 2004, Hart-Davis-Hart went
 into the auction game the
 following year, grossing an
 impressive \$2m with its
 inaugural sale. Last year the
 company, which was
 established by three of
 America's top wine experts
 John and Paul Hart and
 Michael Davis, hammered
 down an extraordinary
 \$27m worth of fine wines in
 just seven auctions to
 achieve an industry-leading
 99.3 per cent average sale
 rate, with four of its last
 five auctions being 100 per
 cent sold.

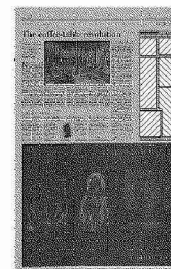
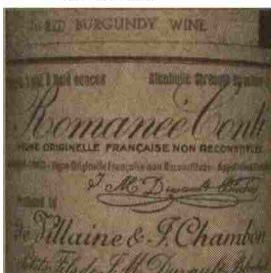
The HDH ethos is to
 make each sale into a
 memorable event for bon
 viveurs: bidding takes place
 at the art-filled and
 award-winning Tru
 restaurant in Chicago's
 upmarket North Michigan
 Avenue retail district where
 participants can partake of
 a pre-booked \$75-a-head
 lunch. In addition to being
 able to order wines from
 Tru's 17,000-bottle cellar,
 clients may also sample
 offerings from HDH's retail
 selection which are handed
 round during the auction.
 Be warned, however. This is
 a sale for hard-core
 oenophiles, kicking-off at
 9am sharp and comprising
 1,100 individual lots.

Highlights: The sale opens
 with 40 lots of rarities from
 a single-owner collection,
 the highlight of which is a
 full case of Château Pétrus
 from the great 1982 vintage
 (bottom left) which is
 estimated to fetch up to
 \$48,000. A further dozen
 bottles of Château
 Lafite-Rothschild from the

same year have also been
 consigned (\$12,000-
 \$18,000), and a single
 bottle of 1943 Romanée
 Conti (top right) that is
 tipped to realise \$3,000.
 Burgundy follows in the
 form of three cases of 1962
 vintage from Domaine de la
 Romanée, the smallest
 appellation contrôlée in
 France (\$16,000-\$24,000
 per case).

Lovers of Sauternes are
 invited to bid for nine
 bottles of 1948,
 premier cru Château
 d'Yquem estimated at
 up to \$11,000 while
 the sale ends with a
 \$250,000 collection
 from one of America's
 leading wine
 aficionados, Dr M. Lee
 Pearce who has been
 amassing wine for
 more than 30 years.
 Most of the proceeds
 will go to his
 foundation supporting
 music and medical
 research.

*Compiled by Simon
 de Burton*



Printing imperfections
 present during scanning