

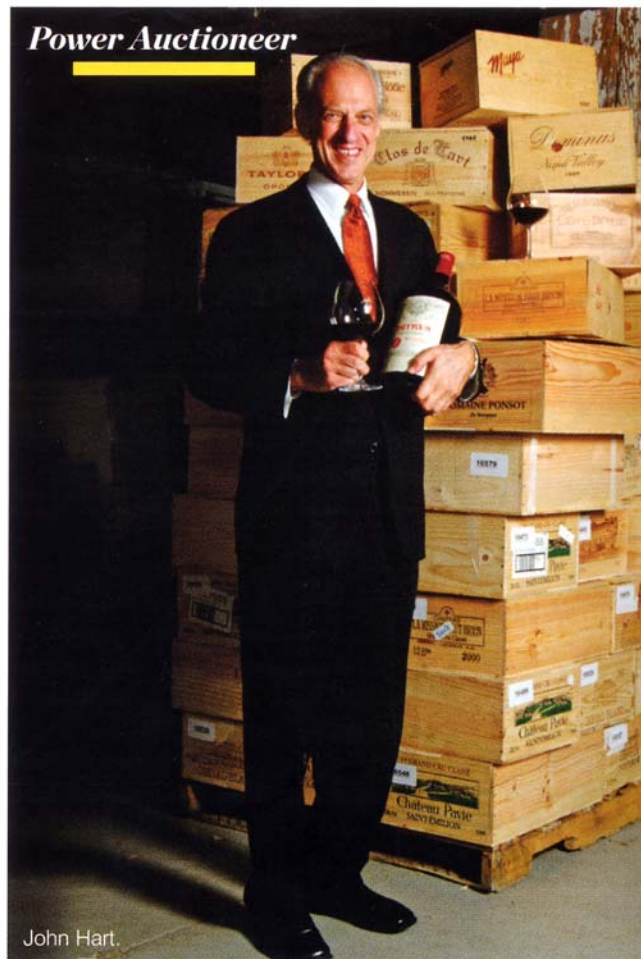
Hart & Soul

Philanthropist John Hart's wine shop and auction house is the toast of the town.

BY THOMAS CONNORS

IN HIS 35-PLUS YEARS as a wine retailer and auctioneer, John Hart, chairman of Hart Davis Hart Wine Company, has tasted and sold some remarkable bottles. But even he is excited about the company's monumental sale this September, which brings to market the largest single-owner selection of Château Lafite-Rothschild ever offered at auction—not to mention more than 1,000 bottles each from Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, Châteaux Latour, Margaux, Mouton-Rothschild, and Haut-Brion. "It's one of the great, great, *pristine* collections," says Hart, "and it's such a coup for Chicago. The owners talked to five houses in New York, but decided that we offered the expertise they respected."

When not reeling in terrific catches like this (the auction is expected to draw up to \$10.2 million), Hart and his wife, Carol Prins, devote themselves to a range of institutions and charities. He's a veteran board member of the Steppenwolf Theatre and a trustee of the Lincoln Park Zoo. She counts the Goodman Theatre (where she's in high gear for the opening of *Turn of the Century*) and the Museum of Contemporary Art among her board memberships. Like Hart, Prins doesn't limit her giving to the arts: "I'm all over the map. And want to go all over the map. And want to know what's *new* on the map." A champion of American Jewish World Service, which has targeted human trafficking, Prins notes that one needn't have a hedge fund to make a difference. "You always see headlines about someone who's given a huge amount toward a building," she says, "but there are so many other, smaller ways to make a meaningful impact." Cheers to that.



John Hart.