

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**CHICAGO-BASED HART DAVIS HART WINE CO. ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF
THEIR HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL MAY 7th WINE AUCTION**
Sale brings in \$1.9 million, with prices soaring above the pre-sale estimate

(May 12, 2005—Chicago, IL)—Hart Davis Hart Wine Co. (hdhwine.com), a Chicago-based fine wine retailer and auction house, today announced the results of their second live auction, which took place at the Chicago Athletic Association on Saturday, May 7. The auction realized \$1.9 million with an amazing 98% of the lots sold by value. In total, auction prices exceeded the pre-sale estimate by 16%. Bidders participated from 35 states as well as several countries in Europe, Asia, and the Americas.

“We were thrilled to close our season on such a high note” commented Michael Davis, President & CEO. “The market for rare and classic wines is obviously robust, and it bodes well for what we think will be a very exciting Fall season.”

The highlight of the auction was The Magnificent Collection of Mr. William A. Hawks, which was 100% sold. Fierce bidding erupted for a group of wines from the Domaine de la Romanee Conti within the Hawks consignment. A Methuselah of Richebourg 1971 fetched \$11,700 (estimate \$5000-7000), a 3 magnum offering of the same wine brought \$12,870 (estimate \$6500-8500), and a 4 bottle lot of Romanee-Conti 1985 commanded \$22,230 (estimate \$13,000-18,000).

“Having sold many of Mr. Hawks’ wines to him in the late 1970s, it was fascinating to witness them commanding such remarkable prices today” observed John Hart, Chairman, and veteran of the rare wine market “collectors from all over the world were vying for the rarities.”

Classic Bordeaux consistently attracted strong response from collectors, such as a case of Chateau Lafite 1955 that fetched \$4680 (estimate \$2400-3500), and a case of magnums of Chateau Mouton 1970 which realized \$4095 (estimate \$1200-1600). The heralded 1982 vintage also fared well, such as a case of magnums of Chateau Mouton which brought \$9360 (estimate \$4800-6000) and several cases of Chateau Lafite which consistently commanded \$8775 (estimate \$4800-6000).

“The consistent and aggressive prices for the 1982 first growth Bordeaux reflect the general strength of the market,” noted Paul Hart, President & COO.

Hart Davis Hart had a highly charged and successful first season, maintaining a remarkable average sold rate of 97.5% by value. The Chicago-based firm resumes auctions on September 17, followed by another on November 19. Consignments for the September 17th sale will be accepted through July 1. For information on buying and selling wine through Hart Davis Hart, please call 312.482.9996 or visit hdhwine.com.

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Summary of Auction Results

Top Ten Lots

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Realized</u>	<u>Buyer</u>
192	1985 Romanée-Conti Domaine de la Romanée-Conti (4 bottles)	\$13,000-18,000	\$22,230	U.S. Trade
194	1985 Montrachet Domaine de la Romanée-Conti (9 bottles)	\$9,000-12,000	\$16,380	U.S. Trade
174	1971 La Tâche Domaine de la Romanée-Conti (3 magnums)	\$6,500-8,500	\$12,870	U.S. Trade
169	1967 Château d'Yquem, (12 bottles)	\$8,000-11,000	\$11,700	U.S. Trade
175	1971 Richebourg Domaine de la Romanée-Conti (1 methuselah)	\$5,000-7,000	\$11,700	U.S. Trade
113	1982 Château Mouton- Rothschild (6 magnums)	\$4,800-6,000	\$9,360	U.S. Private
1	1982 Château Lafite-Rothschild, (12 bottles)	\$4,800-6,000	\$8,775	U.S. Private
2	1982 Château Lafite-Rothschild, (12 bottles)	\$4,800-6,000	\$8,775	U.S. Private
13	1982 Château Mouton-Rothschild, (12 bottles)	\$4,800-6,500	\$8,775	U.S. Private
104	1982 Château Latour (12 bottles)	\$4,800-6,000	\$8,775	U.S. Private

Total realized \$1,867,367

96% sold by lot

98% by value

Total lots offered 1056

Total lots sold 1016

Total lots unsold 40

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About Hart Davis Hart Wine Co.

In October 2004, Michael Davis and Paul Hart, the most experienced wine auctioneers in America, partnered with world-renowned fine wine purveyor John Hart of John Hart Fine Wine to form Hart Davis Hart Wine Co. The company combines live wine auctions with a state-of-the-art wine website and retail operation, and is backed by a trusted and highly experienced team, offering the most personalized service of any fine and rare wine company in the United States.

Hart Davis Hart's next wine auction will take place on Saturday, September 17th at the Chicago Athletic Association, a 115 year old private club, which overlooks Millennium Park at 12 South Michigan Avenue. There will be a pre-sale tasting at the club (\$65) immediately before the auction, which will allow bidders the opportunity to taste a range of wines featured in the sale from a variety of consignors. The tasting begins 9:00 a.m., and the live auction will follow promptly at 10:00 a.m. Bidders will be comfortably seated at round tables throughout the day, a refreshing change from theatre-style seating. There will be a buffet luncheon (\$50) offered in the sale room mid-day. Attendees interested in both the pre-auction tasting and the luncheon, may reserve both for \$100.

Auction catalogs for the September 17th sale will be available through the website or by calling Hart Davis Hart (hdhwine.com; 312.482.9996.) Individual catalogs are \$25 (\$39 international), and annual subscriptions, providing at least four catalogs, are \$80 (\$120 international). The expanded website allows bidders to view and search the auction catalog and place absentee bids online.

Bidders are encouraged to attend the auction in person, but Hart Davis Hart welcomes bids by phone, fax or through the website. Bidding procedures and Conditions of Sale are outlined in the Auction Catalogue. Buyer's premium is 17% of the hammer price. For more information, contact Hart Davis Hart at 312.482.9996 or go to hdhwine.com.

Many of the company's clients opt to purchase wine through their sophisticated website, hdhwine.com. The retail selection at Hart Davis Hart includes the best new releases, along with rare wines sourced from private cellars with impeccable provenance. The inventory is updated daily and may be searched by vintage, rating, keyword and price.

To view a complete list of hammer prices from the May 7th sale, visit hdhwine.com. For more information on upcoming auctions and buying and selling wine through Hart Davis Hart Wine Co., please contact Hart Davis Hart at 312.482.9996 or visit hdhwine.com.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT MILAN-JARVIS
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