



Dear Client,

It's been an extraordinary season, and the exemplary auctions keep on coming! The only negative thing I can say about 2021 is that it is getting so lonely at the top 😊 It's hard to believe that we have such another exceptional sale this **Wednesday and Thursday, May 12th and 13<sup>th</sup>**! This sale includes two, very, very, very special features on top of the usual mix of the finest and rarest wines. Please pay attention!



We are thrilled to present our first ever **Viva Italia!** in **Lots 912-1338**, our *omaggio* to Italian wines in the fashion of our Grande Fete de Bourgogne, highlighted by **direct consignments** from five of Italy's most important estates: **Giacosa, Ceretto, Quintarelli, Ornellaia, and Antinori**, including multiple, *bellissimo* experience lots, one featuring your own barrel of 2020 Tignanello! We are honored to have the greatest authority on Italian wines himself, **Antonio Galloni of Vinous**, introduce our first Viva Italia! section, as well as share with us intimate profiles of the estates behind the five direct consignments, lending us his decades of Italian wine drinking expertise and time spent with these historic families like no one else possibly could! We will kick off another exceptional week of **virtual tastings on Zoom** prior to the auction on Monday through Thursday, beginning with a special, opening evening with Antonio, followed by tastings with Bruna Giacosa, Axel Heinz of Ornellaia, and Alessia Antinori!!! In addition, there are over 400 incredible lots of the most iconic Italian wines from some of the best Italian cellars we know — they're all here, and we cannot wait for you to see the greatness of Italy. If you can think of it, we have it: **Accomasso, Aldo & Giacomo Conterno, Allegrini, Antinori, Bartolo & Giuseppe Mascarello, Biondi Santi, Ceretto, Dal Forno, Emidio Pepe, Felsina, Fontodi, Gaja, Giacosa, Giuseppe Rinaldi, Le Pergole Torte, Masseto, Ornellaia, Prunotto, Quintarelli, Sandrone, Sassicaia, Scavino, Solaia, Soldera, Tignanello, Vietti, Voerzio**...the gang is all here! *Delizioso!* There is one European collection that stands out above all and must be acknowledged here, in **Lots 1036 to 1182**, who brings us a dash of Italian magic, with many lots still in original packaging! Be it Bartolo artist labels, Giacosa back to 1974, Gaja gone wild with large format Barbaresco and beautiful bottles of Sori Tildin and Sori San Lorenzo from the 1970s, magical Monfortino from '45, '58, and '61, back-vintage Biondi Santi and Soldera, or Super Tuscan selections of Solaia back to 1982, Tignanello back to 1971 rife with large formats, and a stunning, super vertical of Sassicaia from 1968 to 2018, this collector has it all. This is a reference point collection burgeoning with *bellissimo*, benchmark wines that truly puts the Viva in Italia! *Magnifico!*

In addition, we are ecstatic to debut **the worldwide release of the 2019 vintage direct from the cellars of Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair**. The 2019 is already shaping up to be one of the most exciting Burgundy vintages ever, but it is unfortunately a small crop. We are extremely honored to have **sixteen, single bottle lots representing the worldwide debut and official first release of each Cru** from the incomparable Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair for the 2019 vintage. These special lots are all the more exceptional as they are **accompanied by the first NFTs, otherwise known as non-fungible tokens, ever made in Burgundy**. These NFTs are unique 1/1s that accompany each bottle of all sixteen cuvees and will be the only ones the Comte will ever make for the already legendary 2019 vintage. The historical significance of these NFTs is immense, and we are beyond overjoyed that Comte Louis Michel Liger-Belair has shared with us another chapter to the long-storied history of his legendary Domaine with something that will enhance the wine experience like nothing ever before!



But wait, there's more 😊 As a season of celebration begins, what better way to toast than with a one-two punch of **California gold** and Champagne! A duo of California-focused collectors in **Lots 117-227** and **680-771** serve up the Golden State's finest, both young and old, including highlights from **Dunn** Howell Mountain, **Harlan** back to 1991, **Screaming Eagle**, **Sine Qua Non**, **Colgin**, **Montelena**, **Diamond Creek**, and more! Cabernet is king and these two consignors bring us a killer California selection fit for every wine lover under the sun. No party would be complete without **Champagne**, and a terrific trio of gentlemen, in **Lots 229-309**, brings us the bubbles we need! We start things off with six bottles of the sensationally stylish 1996 **Krug** Clos d'Ambonnay and keep the party going with some parcel power with cases of **Charles Heidsieck** Blanc des Millenaires, 1988 **Winston Churchill**, and friends. We then welcome back a superlative selection of **Delamotte and Salon** from a collector with close ties to the Domaines, for his third offering in our auctions! Our consignor is the original owner of all wines and has kept them all professionally stored in London since purchase, making this selection as if buying directly from the Champagne houses! From two cases of 1970 Delamotte collection en magnum to back-to-back Salon Oenothque Assortments, to parcels of 2002 and 2006 Salon, consider your Champagne selection for the season sorted. Whether you are a lover of California greatness or in need of an effervescent, Champagne refreshment, these selections have it all!

This is a historic auction, so please be sure to tune in on May 12th and 13th. We cannot wait to keep this scintillating season of special wine going. Viva Italia! And Vive Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair!!!

In Vino Veritas,

John Kapon  
Chairman, Acker Merrall & Condit Companies

