Acker
SINCE 1820

Dear Client,



It's that time of year again! November 19–21 marks Acker's 14th "Birthday Auction," a great celebration of not only my birthday, but of fine and rare wine in general featuring events all week long in New York City. This year we have two fabulous Wine Workshop events, two bidding parties, and an evening with Felicien Roulot, who will be with us to celebrate a fantastic offering direct from the Domaine in Saturday's session. With **more than 3,400 lots, estimated sales exceeding $20 million, and four spectacular sessions over three days,** this year is the biggest Birthday Auction yet! I could not think of a better present, and a big thank you to all the great collectors who helped this amazing sale happen.

We kick things off live online Thursday 11/19 at 9am ET, followed by a blockbuster, two cellar afternoon session at 3:30pm, including a bidding party at Riverpark in New York City, the unofficial "Birthday Bash!" The excitement continues Friday live online all day long with a spectacular session, before we close things out with our fourth session Saturday, beginning at 9am once again, this time with a bidding party at Marea as usual. From historic Bordeaux and Burgundy to legendary collections, rare large formats, and wines direct from the Domaine, this is a birthday celebration you won't want to miss!

Session One opens live online on **Thursday, November 19 at 9am ET**, and the mature crowd should pay extra attention. **A Master Class from The Discerning Scholar** headlines the morning in **lots 249–438** with one hundred ninety selections from his meticulously assembled 25,000-bottle collection. His extraordinary curriculum ranges from 1926 **Haut-Brion**, 1928 **Branaire-Ducru**, and 1929 **Ducru-Beaucaillou** to fourteen lots of **Rousseau**, thirteen lots of **Domaine de la Romanée-Conti**, and eleven lots of **Ramonet**, including Montrachet, of course. Also commanding attention is **The Estate Collection of John Nemeth** in **lots 1–114**, a fifty-year labor of love featuring twenty lots of **DRC**, nine of **Roumier**, and mature Bordeaux, Burgundy, and historic Madeira. The morning is packed with fabulous collections and sexy mature wines spanning more than a century, including 1957 **DRC** Romanée-Conti, a Methuselah of 1979 **La Tâche**, 1961 **Lafleur**, and an astonishing **Conterno Monfortino** vertical dating back to 1926!! With Champagne reaching back to 1914 (Pol Roger, of course) and Madeira to 1863, this is one history lesson where cutting class is a really bad idea!

The celebration moves to **Session Two** on **Thursday at 3:30pm ET**, with bidding livestreamed to our **BYO Birthday Bash & Bidding Party at Riverpark in NYC**! We are thrilled to present **From the Cellar of Lewis Chester DipWSET** in **lots 657–1246**, a carefully chosen offering of five hundred ninety-three exceptional lots led by his remarkable family collection in the UK. One of the fine wine world's most dedicated and accomplished collectors, Lewis has spent nearly three decades cultivating relationships with the world's greatest Domaines, building a cellar distinguished by its depth of Champagne and Burgundy, exceptional large formats, and treasures acquired through years of personal connections. Representing just a single-digit percentage of his continuing family collection, this selective release reflects the producers he collects and the wines he loves. A wine writer, WSET Diploma holder, and co-founder of Liquid Icons and The Golden Vines, Lewis is as passionate about advancing the world of fine wine as he is about collecting it.

Known as "Mr Magnum," Lewis brings nearly seven hundred bottles in magnum or larger. Champagne shines with one hundred sixty lots led by sixty lots of **Dom Pérignon** featuring a complete range of special releases, and forty-four of **Krug**, including the stunning 2002 Clos d'Ambonnay and Clos du Mesnil! White Burgundy is a treasure trove of **Coche-Dury**, **d'Auvenay**, **Leroy**, and **Leflaive**, with a full, OWC case of 2008 **Coche-Dury** Corton-Charlemagne and six-bottle OWCs of 2004 **d'Auvenay** Chevalier-Montrachet and 2005 Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet, just to get your attention! Red Burgundy answers with full cases of 1999 and 2005 **Rousseau** Chambertin, rare **Bizot** Échézeaux in OCBs, amongst numerous others!! Two nine-liter bottles of 2012 **Dal Forno "Prima Serie" Amarone**, two of only ten made, each accompanied by a hand-signed note from Mr. Dal Forno, add another dimension of rarity. This is a collection that oozes the passion that was put into it. As Lewis told us, "Even though they might not know me personally, they'll get to know me through those bottles." Amen!

Every great auction needs a legend, and next comes "**The Legend of Bobby Burgundy"** in **lots 1247–1578**! Larger than life and magnanimous to the core, Bobby has spent twenty-five years building one of America's great Burgundy cellars, and these three hundred thirty-two lots represent only a small fraction of it. If you've been to an Acker Burgundy event, there's a good chance you've already enjoyed a wine from his cellar! The legend lives in two hundred seven lots of Red Burgundy, led by thirty-six lots of **DRC**, including a mighty Methuselah of 1996 Romanée-Conti in OWC! **Rousseau** presents twenty-five lots, **Domaine Leroy** adds twenty-nine, and **Dujac** another twenty-eight, while White Burgundy offers fourteen lots of **DRC**, twenty-five of **Coche-Dury**, and even some rare **d'Auvenay** makes an appearance! There are so many more great Burgundies on offer here. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are proud to present The Legend of Bobby Burgundy!!!

Session Three begins live online on **Friday, November 20 at 9am ET**, with two blockbuster collections leading the way. **A Stunning Selection of DRC and Leflaive Purchased on Release** in **lots 1579–1682** presents one hundred four offerings from a single collector, including seventy-five lots of **DRC** and twenty-nine of **Leflaive**, all purchased on release and held by the original owner until now! **Romanée-Conti** alone commands thirteen lots spanning 2010 to 2023, including three bottles of the 2015 in OWC, while **La Tâche** stretches from 2010 to 2023 with exceptional banded OWCs. **Leflaive** offers six-bottle OWCs of 2022 Bâtard-Montrachet and Chevalier-Montrachet, alongside 2019 magnums of both wines. Two legendary Domaines, one exceptional offering!!

Big-Time Wines from a Prominent Real Estate Investor is up next in **lots 1683–1859** with one hundred seventy-seven spectacular lots featuring eighty-two lots of Champagne and sixty-eight of Red Burgundy! **Dom Pérignon** reaches back to 1975, while **Rousseau** delivers twelve bottles of 1999 Chambertin Clos de Bèze and six magnums of 1996 Chambertin!! **DRC** contributes six bottles of 2001 La Tâche, and a Methuselah of 2000 **Dujac** Clos de la Roche adds some serious large-format fireworks! And these two collections are just the beginning! Another sixteen collections deliver a breathtaking parade of **DRC**, **Leroy**, **Roumier**, **Rousseau**, mature Bordeaux, and California cult classics, including three bottles of 2015 Romanée-Conti in banded OWC, a case of 1982 **Lafleur**, and a case of 1989 **Haut-Brion**!! Friday is a full day of big-time wine. Make sure to call in sick on Friday the 20th!!

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Our fourth and final session begins **Saturday, November 21 at 9am ET**, with bidding livestreamed to our **Birthday Bidding Party at Marea in NYC**! Ten top collections make Saturday a grand finale worthy of the occasion, and Rousseau lovers get first crack. **Rousseau and Friends** opens in **lots 2554–2603** with twenty-nine lots of **Rousseau** sourced directly from the Domaine's importer! **A Collection of Continuous Calibration** follows in **lots 2604–2630**, where eleven lots of **Domaine Leroy** steal the show, before **The Living Cellar of a Longtime Burgundy Lover** pours out one hundred three lots from thirty years of collecting in **lots 2631–2733**, including sixteen lots of **Rousseau** and nineteen of **DRC**!!

Next up are three of the greatest collections I have ever known: **The Admiral**, **The Queen**, and **The Golden Bull**. Having all three join me for this year's Birthday Auction makes me feel warm and fuzzy all over! **The Admiral's Collection** takes command in **lots 2734–2846** with one hundred thirteen magnificent lots, every one inspected and vetted by expert advisors. Two OWC cases of 1989 **Haut-Brion** set the pace, **Pétrus** follows with magnums and a Jeroboam of 1975, and ten lots of **Comte Liger-Belair** La Romanée, including the 2006 in bottle, magnum, and Jeroboam, lead a commanding Burgundy fleet! **Long Live The Queen** reigns over ninety-two treasures, **lots 2847–2938,** from one of the most significant collections I have ever encountered, much of it untouched for decades. The legendary 1982 vintage holds court with three full cases each of **Cheval Blanc** and **La Mission Haut-Brion**, while 1985 **DRC** answers with an Assortment in custom OWC and another OWC of La Tâche!! **The Golden Bull's Birthday Bounty** charges in with **lots 2939–3016**, seventy-eight sensational selections, impeccably stored at Octavian cellars in England. A rare, ex-Domaine Jeroboam of 1926 **Haut-Brion** in OWC leads this parade, followed by twenty-four lots of **DRC** with Romanée-Conti from 2015, 2021, and 2022, three bottles of 2007 **Leroy** Musigny, and **D'Oliveiras** Madeira reaching back to 1850! The Bull is back!

We are especially honored to present **Direct from Domaine Roulot** in **lots 3017–3041**, twenty-five selections celebrating nearly two centuries of winemaking and a new generation stepping forward! Félicien Roulot joins his father, Jean-Marc, in carrying forward this extraordinary family legacy, and we look forward to welcoming him to New York for special tastings and dinners, as well as The Birthday Auction itself! Highlights include a special twelve-vintage vertical of Meursault Clos des Bouchères from 2011 to 2022 (the first 12 vintages), entirely in magnum. There are also seven singular sensations otherwise known as magnums of Meursault Perrieres back to 2007, rare Jeroboams, and a first look at the Domaine's most significant expansion since 2011. Four new wines join the Domaine portfolio with the 2024 vintage, including Meursault Les Clous, Casse-Têtes, and the highly coveted Premier Cru Genevrières, all featured in a remarkable eighteen-wine assortment alongside Beaune Premier Cru Les Teurons! This is a rare opportunity to experience the evolution of one of White Burgundy's greatest Domaines, directly from the source!

Then fasten your seatbelts for **The Largest Private Offering of Domaine du Comte Liger-Belair Ever** in **lots 3042–3300**! This staggering collection of two hundred fifty-nine lots includes one hundred four lots from **Comte Liger-Belair**, starring La Romanée in magnum in every vintage from 2002 to 2019, along with bottles from nine vintages and a Jeroboam of 2008! The list of wines from CLB goes on and on, with extensive offerings in Echezeaux and all throughout the Vosne Romanee Crus. Magnifique! The collector's passion for Burgundy extends to more than one hundred fifty additional lots of its greatest names, including forty-three lots of **Leroy**, fifteen of **d'Auvenay**, and a rare 1990 **Henri Jayer** Cros Parantoux! But for lovers of Liger-Belair, this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and a spectacular way to celebrate our final day!

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But we're not finished yet! **Lots 3301–3374**, **Passion, Pedigree, Personality and All Purchased on Release** delivers seventy-four more lots from the great Domaines of Red Burgundy, led by **Rousseau**, **DRC**, and **Dujac**, before **Bring on the Burgundy** in **lots 3375–3411** offers a generous helping of the legendary 2005 vintage! Talk about a Top Ten!!

There are simply too many significant wines and collections to do them all justice in this not-so-brief introduction. Explore the catalog, find your favorites, and join us live or online for three unforgettable days of bidding and a full week of birthday festivities!!!

In Vino Veritas,

John Kapon
Chairman, Acker Merrall & Condit Companies

