

New York | +1 212 606 7176 | Lauren Gioia | Lauren.Gioia@Sothebys.com |
Dan Abernethy | Dan.abernethy@sothebys.com |

Sotheby's To Sell the Cellar of Lloyd Flatt: One of the Foremost Pioneers of Wine Collecting in America



“Unlike an art collection, which is permanent, wine ultimately must be consumed. You should never contemplate a cellar if you cannot accept that fact.”

Lloyd Flatt as quoted by Peter Meltzer in *Wine Spectator*, 29 Jan 2008

New York, January 2010 – Sotheby's is delighted to announce that it is to sell the collection of the late Lloyd Flatt, one of the foremost early American wine collectors, of top Bordeaux, Burgundy and Champagne, on 20 March 2010 in New York. The auction follows the death of Mr. Flatt in January 2008 and is an insight to this remarkable collector and his approach to enjoying wine. Mr. Flatt was known for hosting legendary tastings at which he would open treasures from his cellar; he was described as “one of the country's premier wine collectors” by the *Washington Post* in an obituary in February 2008. The collection is estimated to fetch in excess of \$600,000.

Serena Sutcliffe MW, Sotheby's Worldwide Head of Wine said: *"Lloyd Flatt was one of the great personalities of the*



wine-collecting world, a legendary figure who hosted some of the most exciting tastings held in America. He was a pioneer amongst American wine collectors, at a time when wine connoisseurship was far rarer than it is today. He always felt that wine was there to be drunk, not looked at, and his respect for quality in a wine was only matched by his great generosity in serving it. Lloyd bought and enjoyed wine with enormous enthusiasm and we are honoured to be offering some of the most fascinating wines he had in his cellar. His 'joie de vivre' was infectious and his forthright opinions and view of the world were always entertaining and informative. Lloyd's assessments of wines went to the heart of the matter and he revered fine

winemaking. Our memories of him are centered on wonderful shared bottles and amusing anecdotes and, through these historic wines from his cellar, we are able to relive unforgettable occasions. If ever a collection were a reflection of the individuality and character of the collector, this amazing array of wines is the perfect example."

Talking about her husband's wine collection Lauré Flatt said: *"There was the rebuilding of Europe, the rebuilding of Atlanta and then there was the rebuilding of Lloyd Flatt's wine cellar. When I met Lloyd, in 1992 in New Orleans, he was a charming man with a Tennessee twang and his so noted eye patch. At the time I had no inkling I was in the presence of wine royalty. He recited to me a quote from his mother, Granny Flatt; "the only difference between a 'wino' and a 'wine connoisseur' is money," his roaring deep laugh was infectious; he knew his mother had it all figured out. Over our years together, Lloyd spent countless hours going through wine catalogs and price lists, searching for those next rare bottles. I was so fortunate to be at his side traveling the world for these treasures. With no "wine" knowledge myself, I was fascinated to watch his tireless research and obvious enjoyment in acquiring his next prize. Lloyd could never be described as being selfish with his knowledge of wine and favorite Champagnes; he thrived on sharing his vast experiences with me or anyone that had hours to spend listening.*

"Must be present to win" - of all of Lloyds quotes, this is my personal favorite. This was the order of the day whenever opening an important bottle to share with family and friends. Many times it was just he and I at our kitchen table or in the garden. Top hats, morning coats, a jazz band through the French Quarter or pajamas in the garden, Lloyd said the dress did not change the taste of the elixir. He had a hunger for fine foods; however he was not one to follow the food to wine match; "if the wine is good enough the food will follow". He often enjoyed Dom Pérignon and Dominos pizza, or a Lafite with a cheeseburger.

Lloyd Cooper Flatt was and forever will be the love of my life. Like the serenity of his favorite piece of art, by naïve painter Camille Bombois, whose lady stands by the river so patiently waiting for her catch, I will stand by and wait for my time with him again. He is my happily ever after."

The highlights of the collection include wines from the very best Bordeaux Châteaux, stunning DRC and great Champagne –

Bordeaux:

1 x 4.5l Jero, 1959 Lafite Rothschild, est. \$20,000-30,000
1 x 4.5 Jero 1961 Lafite Rothschild est. \$12,000-20,000
1 6L Margaux 1983 est. \$4,000-6,000
1 x 15L 1989 Lynch Bages est. \$4,000-6,000

White Bordeaux:

12 bottles 1989 Haut Brion Blanc est. \$10,000-15,000
1 6L 1985 Haut Brion Blanc est. \$3,000-5,000
12 bottles 1982 Haut Brion Blanc est. \$3,000-5,000



Burgundy:

DRC

2 x 6L 1983 Montrachet est. \$8,000-11,000 each
9x 3L 1983 Jero La Tâche est. \$3,000-4,000 each
2 x 750ml 1947 La Tâche est. \$8,000-12,000
1 x 1.5L 1962 Grands Echézeaux est. \$4,500-6

Bouchard Père et Fils:

Many of these bottles came direct from BPF having been purchased at the Sotheby's London sale of wine direct from their cellars in Beaune in September 2000

1 bt 1865 Chambertin est. \$1/1,500
1 bt 1865 La Romanée est. \$4/5,500
1 bt 1861 Romanée St. Vivant est. \$4/5,500
1 bt 1864 Montrachet est. \$4/5,500
1 bt 1869 Montrachet est. \$2,750/4,000

Champagne:

2 x 6L 1990 Louis Roederer Cristal Millennium Mathusalem est. \$10,000-15,000 each
2 x 1500ml 1971 Salon le Mesnil est. \$4,000-6,000
1 x 1500ml 1969 Krug Collection est. \$2,250-3,250
1 x 1500ml 1962 Dom Pérignon est. \$2,000-3,000
3 x 750ml 1959 Salon le Mesnil est. \$4,500-6,000
1 bottle 1949 Salon le Mesnil est. \$1,000-1,500

Many leading figures in the wine world have paid tribute to Lloyd Flatt -

“What I appreciated about Lloyd was his relish for life, his love of quality and the way he could spot ‘humbug’ a mile off! His views were always straight from the shoulder, expressed with humour and zest. There was no one better with whom to share a good bottle.”

David Peppercorn M.W.

“His wines were very carefully sourced and meticulously stored in the second home he owned in the French Quarter, about a block away from his residence. To visit it was a tour of Aladdin’s cave. Knowledgeable, with a keen palate, yet forever a student as well, he imparted knowledge and absorbed it in equal measure.”

Tawfiq Koury, Collector

“A great treat at the Mouton event was watching all of his guests “second-line” through the French Quarter from the morning’s tasting to lunch at Brennan’s Restaurant. Everyone waved their handkerchiefs in the air as the line moved down the street in time with the music, New Orleans style- with Lloyd leading the way. Lloyd knew how to turn events into experiences.”

David Gladden, CEO - Martin Wine Cellar & Wines Unlimited

“He was a pioneer in the realm of wine collecting – trailblazing in a period when empirical knowledge prevailed and today’s scores and ratings were non-existent. His monumental and exhaustive wine tastings like the 100-vintage examination of Château Lafite Rothschild brought new meaning to the notion of vertical. At these events, priceless bottles dating back more than a century were poured – completely gratis – to the assembled group of tasters.

Lloyd’s basic approach to wine collecting remains altogether valid today. “I always mentally expensed the value of my wine at the time of purchase,” he explained, “so that the adjusted cost price never became an obstacle to uncorking a bottle. Unlike an art collection, which is permanent, wine ultimately must be consumed. You shouldn’t even contemplate a cellar if you cannot accept that fact.”

Peter Meltzer, Auction Correspondent for Wine Spectator Magazine

#