



High-end wines auctioned at Sarachaga

The event took place for the second consecutive year

By Sebastián Ríos

A wine collector bid usd 2.100 for a 1987 bottle of French wine. Wines are starting to sell like works of art. With a large audience gathered last evening, traditional Auction House Sarachaga sold 8 lots of high-end French, Hungarian and Argentine wines from the private cellar of a French collector. Presale prices started at usd 380 per lot (most lots were composed of one bottle) and the highest price bid of the evening was usd 2.100 for a lot of one bottle 1987 La Tache.

"During the last week we noticed a strong interest in wine, among other works of art exhibited in our gallery. In fact, many wine consumers called us and made their offers before the auction was held", says Juan Nelson, adviser to Sarachaga Auction House, located in Recoleta. Nelson added that "last year, the first time Sarachaga auctioned rare wines, we noticed a genuine interest from wine collectors who were looking to acquire high-end, expensive wines." Last night during the auction there was fierce bidding war among collectors for one chosen bottle. As with most luxury auctions, serenity and decorum prevailed during the event, but the entire audience could sense the hunger of the buyers, who were mostly young entrepreneurs.

All eight lots were sold by the conclusion of the event. A bottle of **1987 La Tache was sold for usd 2.100, one bottle of 1979 Petrus Grand Vin for usd 2.060. A selection of bottles sold above their initial presale value, including a bottle of 1996 Chateaux Margaux sold for usd 880; a bottle of 1990 Chateau Mouton Rothschild sold for usd 500 and one bottle of 1990 Chateau Haut**

Brion for usd 1.100. One bottle of 1996 Chateau Lafite for usd 1.650 and six bottles of Royal Tokaji Aszu for usd 1.050. Lastly, one bottle of 1990 Catena Zapata Estiba Reservada sold for usd 1.240.

According to Winesearcher.com's World's Top 50 Most Expensive Wines, Catena Zapata's Estiba Reservada is the most expensive Argentine wine ranked, recognizing it as a wine with the best and truest expression of Argentine wines. "Last night, a bottle of the 1990 sold; this year was Catena Zapata's first vintage, which is almost unavailable in the wine market," concludes Nelson. The wines auctioned yesterday shared the exhibition room with other renowned works of art, such as paintings by Rogelio Polesello, Vidal Luz, Benito Quinquela Martin and Antonio Berni.

"The person who buys these wines is not only a person of means, but also a person of sophistication; a true wine connoisseur who buys these wines to drink. These bottles have been carefully cellared to reach their final glory," explained Nelson.

Last year, in the August 2013 auction, the same wine buyer bought all of the lots. The highest bid wine was a bottle of **1988 Chateau Petrus**, from Pomerol region in France, which jumped from a presale price of usd 1200 to a final price of **usd 1.500.**