

Lloyd Webber's wine nets \$5.5M

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He's made his fortune through musicals such as *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Love Never Dies*. And now Andrew Lloyd Webber has added an extra \$5.5 million US to his bank balance with the sale of some choice bottles from his vast wine collection.

The eagerly anticipated sale in Hong Kong featured 8,837 bottles of classic French wines, including what experts regard as the finest white burgundies ever for sale in Asia.

Pre-sale estimates suggested that the 746 lots (mainly cases of 12 or six bottles, but also some individual bottles) would fetch \$4.2 million, but the salesroom was filled to capacity with what Sotheby's said was "spirited and jovial bidding from all over Asia."

Jeannie Cho Lee, a master of wine based in Hong Kong, told *The Telegraph*: "It's clear that fine wines on offer from auction houses have not yet reached saturation point. Those watching the markets have been talking about 'auction fatigue' and 'auction bubble,' but so far, demand is still strong and may continue at this pace for the next year or two."

Lloyd Webber is known for being a keen wine collector and connoisseur. He began accumulating desirable bottles when he was a teenager, and would have fine vintages delivered to him at Westminster School in London, where he was a student.

The 62-year-old, who has amassed a \$1.1-billion fortune, said that he sold the wine because he did not have the space to store it.

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