

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wine collectors snap up bargains at recent online auction

Adelaide, Australia, 25-May-2005 -- The results of Wickman's Fine Wine Auctions most recent online wine auction indicates that genuine wine collectors are certainly getting some bargains these days, whilst flippers (people that buy wine to immediately sell at a profit) and speculators have virtually disappeared. There are still many genuine wine investors in the market but they tend to be cherry picking the bargains and waiting patiently for the market to turn.

Many of the Australian cult wines that commanded high prices quite recently are now out of favor on the secondary market and it is a factor of the poor Australian dollar exchange rate that those wineries who still command a premium are the ones who have taken the time to build a solid foundation of Australian drinkers rather than simply take the easier route and sell overseas.

For the second time this year Wickman's featured a charity category amongst the regular commercial lots, with all money raised donated equally between the World Vision Child Rescue Appeal and the Women's and Children's Hospital Foundation. The charity lots were very generously donated by Jeremy Oliver's Onwine website, Cullen Wines, Whistler Wines, Ross Estate, Liebichwein, Seppelts and Massena wines. All of the charity lots started with an opening bid of \$1, no reserve and no commission and were the subject of very competitive bidding.

Wickman's commercial lots were also very popular, although most lots were not highly contested with many bidders walking away with bargains. A number of bottles of 1996 Penfolds Grange went for \$266 each, 2001 Dutschke Oscar Semmler had many interested buyers but eventually closed at the bargain price of \$36 each, 2002 Kalleske Shiraz is still hot, up \$5 to \$80 per bottle with the 2003 not far behind. A bottle of the superb 1994 Baileys 1920 Block shiraz fell for \$29 whilst the ever popular 1996 Penfolds St. Henri was hotly contested at \$53. 1994 Henschke Hill of Grace found a home at \$211, 2002 Kaesler The Bogan lost it for \$79 and number of lots of 2002 Massena the Eleventh Hour laid it down to \$41 per bottle.

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