
MICHAAN'S AUCTIONS

Auctioneers & Appraisers

Michaan's Auctions
2751 Todd Street
Alameda, CA 94501
www.michaans.com

PRESS RELEASE

Press Office Contact:
Talesa Santos
510 740 0220
talesa@michaans.com

THE ST. HELENA ANTIQUES – THE RICHARD LARSON AUCTION OF WINE – RELATED ANTIQUES AND ARTIFACTS

Michaan's Auctions in Alameda, California will host a special Saturday, December 5, 2009 auction of historic wine-making and wine-related antiques and collectibles – the largest sale of its kind ever at auction. Featuring over 1000 items, the collection was assembled by Richard Larson, owner of St. Helena Antiques in Napa Valley, California. Previews and wine tastings will be held Thursday, December 3, Friday December 4 and by appointment.

Mr. Larson's frequent antique-buying trips to France led him to discover a passion for all things oenological and viticultural. The St. Helena Antiques Richard Larson Collection features a wide and intriguing selection of wine related items assembled over the past three decades. A great portion of the collection is the entire deaccessioned contents of Guy Nerguisian's wine museum, Musee de la Vigne et du Vin in Villefranche on the French Riviera, which Mr. Larson purchased in 1999 and had shipped to California in five 40-foot containers.

Mr. Larson proudly displayed his collection in Santa Rosa, California until the presentation space was sold. Mr. Larson hoped to sell the entire collection intact to a wine-related entity such as a restaurant, vineyard or cooperage; he hoped that the new custodians would share the collection with the public as wine making museums in France have done. Understanding that a commitment to care for the collection as a whole might be difficult for another individual, Mr. Larson chose to offer his collection at auction to individual lovers of all things wine.

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This largest collection of wine-related antiques ever offered for sale spans the 17th through the early 20th centuries and includes wine-related and historic wine-making equipment. American and European corkscrews will be sold, as will a fine selection of tastevins from leading French wineries. Hand-blown glass bottles and handmade barrels will be offered. Viticultural and oenological highlights include antique wine presses, copper distilling equipment, copper backpack and horse drawn sprayers, donkey packs, agricultural implements, cellar equipment, stemmer-crushers, cooperage equipment, grafting tools, copper and wood funnels, brass spigots, riddling racks, grape baskets and bottle racks. In addition, the sale will feature period photographs, advertisements and posters, a cast iron Bacchus and several tilt-top tasting tables.

The St. Helena Antiques Richard Larson Collection will be offered at Michaan's Auction in Alameda, California on Saturday, December 5, 2009. This one-day sale will be one of several specialty sales Michaan's will hold this week. Other sales include the December 11 auction of Fine Asian Antiques, the December 10 sale of Fine Art, Jewelry, Decorative Items & Furniture and the December 6 estate sale. Catalogs for all of these sales are available. A comprehensive full color catalog of the Wine Sale will be available in mid-November.

Collectors can bid live in person at the auction, in real time on the Internet via ArtFact.com, by absentee or telephone bidding. Contact Michaan's at 510-740-0220 or visit www.michaans.com for more information.

For questions about the sale or to request additional photographs please contact Scott Bradley at 510-740-0220 ext. 106.

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About Michaan's Auctions

Michaan's Auctions is a leading full service auction house on the West Coast specializing in the appraisals and sale of antiques and fine art. Some of Michaan's specialty departments include Furniture and Decorative Arts, Modern, Contemporary, European and American Paintings and Prints, Books and Manuscripts, Jewelry, Asian Works of Art and Ethnographic Art.

Established in 2002, Michaan's Auctions holds up to thirty sales each year that attract a broad base of buyers and consignors from all over the World. With one of the largest facilities in Northern California and the bay areas lowest buyers premium Michaan's offers buyers and sellers the ability to preview and bid on many unique and desirable pieces. Some of these pieces garnered world record prices. In 2005, a world record price was achieved for an A.D.M Cooper, The Three Graces 1915, sold at auction for \$21,060 as well as a Eduard Gaertner, German City Street Scene 1831, sold at auction for \$266,000.

Michaan's has built its reputation on it's ability to accept single items, groups or entire estates with the "no risk consignment policy", a policy that sets them apart from other auction houses. Michaan's team of specialists are dedicated to staying current on the latest issues and developments in the market and are committed to providing personalized and professional attention throughout the entire auction process.