



Time to cellar

A significant wine cellar is not uncommon in today's global luxury property market, but there is another level altogether for those celebrities who are passionate about collecting

Fine wine is one of the great pleasures in life, and over the years, many have indulged in building cellars that showcase the best of the global wine industry's fruits. While there are many incredible vintages saved and savoured by wine connoisseurs around the world, some of the most special collections have been lovingly and meticulously curated and cultivated by some recognisable names. These four individuals, from very different walks of life, have shared an enduring love for the wine they have invested in so heavily.

YUL BRYNNER

Yul Brynner was an American actor known for his roles in *The King and I*, *The Ten*

Commandments and *The Magnificent Seven*. He was born in Russia in 1920 and relocated to the U.S. in 1943 to pursue

an acting career. Among his many achievements, including an Academy Award for Best Actor and two published books, he was less well known for his love of fine wine. Upon his death in 1985, Brynner's cellar, located at his French estate, was inspected by specialists, and many rare and interesting bottles were discovered. While the temperature-controlled cellar contained many vintages from 1959 and 1979 – the height of Brynner's career – it was a series of 1928 and 1934 bottles of Château Lafite-Rothschild that really turned heads. ➤



Left: When Russian actor Yul Brynner died in 1985, Christie's found Magnums of vintage Château Lafite-Rothschild – two bottle lots auctioned for approximately US\$1,500 in 2016



DORIS DUKE

As a tobacco heiress worth millions, Doris Duke very clearly had a taste for the finer things in life. Her Shangri La Estate in Hawaii may have contained many wines for entertaining, but it was her meat-locker-turned-wine-cellar at Duke Farms in New Jersey that held the most prized members of this incredible collection. In addition to a number of the Dom Pérignon 1921, Duke's stash contained bottles

of Romanée-Conti 1934, Les Gaudichots 1929 and Armand Rousseau's 1934 Chambertin.

The Dom Pérignon has certainly garnered the most attention through the years, with the 1921 bottles being the first cuvée named for Champagne's founding father. Each lot of two bottles at auction sold for over \$7,000 at Christie's 2004 auction of Duke's considerable collection. The full sale of the cellar contents tipped over \$3.7m.

SIR ALEX FERGUSON

Sir Alex Ferguson discovered a love for collecting wine later in life. While the long-serving former Manchester United manager has a particular penchant for bottles from 1999, the year his team won the Champions League title, it was bottles of 1982 and 1985 Château Pétrus that took his love of wine collecting to the next level. One of the most notable vintages from his collection is the 1999 Grands Crus from the Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, that was a particular favourite of his. Ferguson certainly shared an affinity for good wine through the many anecdotes he shared at the auction for his cellar in 2014. During the sale, bottles of a 1997 methuselah of Romanée-Conti surprised as the highest price, and the entire collection fetched more than \$5m. Ferguson also shared a story about presenting rival manager Sam Allardyce with a 1986 bottle of Château Latour, replacing the contents with Ribena. Upon opening the bottle, Allardyce smelled the wine and pulled Ferguson up on the prank before the two laughed about it over a glass of the real stuff.

CHARLIE TROTTER

As a world-renowned two-Michelin star chef, it is no surprise that Charlie Trotter would have a significant and enviable collection of many fantastic vintages between the four cellars he kept. Wine pairings played a large part in his Chicago restaurant from 1987, and many winemakers appreciated his philosophy that wine and food should not only go together but inspire each other.

Trotter's focus on the wine experience and how it interacted with dining set trends for what to drink and what food would complement and inspire the taste of the vintages he cultivated. Because of his incredible intuition and taste in wine, his collections were widely desirable upon the close of his restaurant in 2012. The same year, his collection sold for over \$1m, including four bottles of Richebourg 1986 for a staggering \$29,040.

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Below left: A 2006 Tenuta dell' Ornellaia (Tuscany), signed 'Best Wishes' by Sir Alex Ferguson
Below: The Manchester United manager often invited opposition managers for a wine in his office after home games

