

# Additional Catalog Notes for Bidders



## Level/Ullage Descriptions & Interpretations

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- BN **BOTTOM NECK:** perfectly good for any age of wine. Outstandingly good for a wine of 10 years in bottle, or longer.
- TS **TOP SHOULDER:** normal for any claret 15 years old or older.
- US **UPPER-SHOULDER:** slight natural reduction through easing of cork and evaporation through cork and capsule. Usually no problem. Acceptable for any wine over 20 years old. Exceptional for pre-1940 wines.
- MS **MID-SHOULDER:** probably some weakening of the cork and some risk. Not abnormal for wines 30/40 years of age. Estimates usually take this into account.
- LS **LOW-SHOULDER:** risky and usually only accepted for sale if wine or label is exceptionally rare or interesting. Always offered without reserve and with low estimate.

Because of the slope of shoulder it is impractical to describe levels of Burgundy-shaped bottles as mid-shoulder, etc. Wherever appropriate the level between cork and wine will be measured and cataloged in centimeters.

The condition and drinkability of Burgundy is less affected by ullage than its equivalent from Bordeaux. For example, a 5 to 7 cm. ullage in a 50-year-old Burgundy can be considered normal, indeed good for age, 3.5 to 4 cm. excellent for age, even 7 cm. rarely a risk.