

Designed by Frank Gehry, the Hotel Marqués de Riscal is a world-renowned architectural landmark in the heart of the Rioja Alavesa region of Spain. From the sweeping pink and gold titanium canopy to the mirror-finished stainless steel, the heritage and natural beauty of the region are reflected in every angle of its remarkable façade, ideally merging a deep rooted wine-growing tradition with 21st-century avant-garde design.

But it is by no means of sole interest to architecture enthusiasts. To mark the 150th anniversary of the Vinos de los Herederos del Marqués de Riscal, the winery is to host a weekend of gastronomic and cultural delights – the Marqués de Riscal's Super Vintage Weekend. Throughout the celebration, guests will enjoy dishes prepared by Michelin-starred chef Francis Paniego, a range of vintage labels from the property's cellar and the opportunity to attend a series of lectures on wine, regional art, design and architecture.

The highlight will be a gala dinner and charity auction, conducted by Christie's. Wine aficionados can bid on a range of rare and limited-edition lots, as well as tailored experiences from The Luxury Collection's global destinations.

The featured Riscal superlot includes one bottle of every available vintage dating back to 1861, released to the buyer from the historic wine library of the Marqués de Riscal. This will be the world's largest vertical wine collection ever released by a winery and the estimated proceeds, ranging from €80,000 to €130,000, will be donated to charity.

Christie's International Wine Department reported its best year in 2007, with a global auction total of €52,925,868. With an unrivalled network of nine international sale centres that span across two continents, the department is firmly at the front of the international wine auction markets. Christie's is the only international wine auctioneer to offer sales on both coasts of the United States and, in Europe, the only auction house to hold regular sales outside London. ■

The Super Vintage Weekend begins on Friday 24 October and continues until Sunday 26 October. For more information, contact Vanessa Ferrer at [vanessa.ferrer@luxurycollection.com](mailto:vanessa.ferrer@luxurycollection.com) or call +39 945 180 885.

# VINTAGE GENES

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