

THE PRIVATE COLLECTION OF THE TOUR D'ARGENT UP FOR AUCTION

TABLEWARE - FURNITURE – SPIRITS

- SALE ON MONDAY 9TH MAY 2016 -



©Tour d'Argent



©Artcurial

“The sale of the collections of an iconic venue such as the Tour d’Argent is a truly exciting event! With beautiful Paris at its feet, the Tour d’Argent is symbolic of an exceptional French ‘art de vivre’ and this can be seen on each page of the auction catalogue.”

François Tajan, Deputy Chairman d’Artcurial

“The Tour d’Argent is continually evolving and the renovations we have undertaken have led to us accumulating a large amount of porcelain, crystal, glass and silverware and also furniture which no longer has a relevant place today. Just like our new visual identity, we are establishing the Tour d’Argent in the present, whilst continuing on from the past.”

André Terrail, Owner of the Tour d’Argent

1. OVER 3 000 PIECES OF ENGRAVED TABLEWARE FROM THE TOUR D'ARGENT



Dishes from the Tour d'Argent at auction
© Artcurial - Styling Gilles Dallièrre - Photo Richard Alcock

The Tour d'Argent has selected Artcurial to auction off part of its private collection. The auction will take place in Paris on Monday 9th May 2016 and will be preceded by an exhibition at the Artcurial headquarter showrooms. The restaurant is a lookout point nestled between the sky and the river Seine and sings the beauty of Paris. A meal at the Tour d'Argent restaurant is an unforgettable experience and key cultural moment in the life of a gourmet and this sale will be an exceptional occasion to acquire part of history, a true souvenir from the Tour d'Argent itself. The auction coincides with the modernisation of the restaurant logo and the updating of part of the restaurant's dishes, furniture and wine cellar.

Over 3000 pieces of tableware including dishes, glasses, silverware (including the famous silver goblets), tablecloths, copperware and pieces such as the duck press, all from the Tour d'Argent will be sold. The catalogue will also include pieces of furniture from the restaurant or some which previously belonged to the Terrail family. Items include a screen and tapisserie by Bernard Cathelin, a large carpet which was on the ceiling of the entrance, exterior lanterns and two iconic sculptures from the restaurant including a character called '*le Carnardier*' and another called '*le Cuisinier Rôtisseur*' (inspired by the figures of Arcimboldo and Larmessin), objects from the Musée de la Table, a collection dedicated to the history of gastronomy gathered by the founder André Terrail which used to be on show at the restaurant. Around 100 rare spirits and liquors taken from the exceptional wine cellar of 350 000 bottles and 15 000 names, will complete the auction.

This prestigious establishment, a temple of French gastronomy, headed today by André Terrail, the grandson of the founder, is getting a fresh 'make-over' whilst staying finely in tune to its traditional past. This evolution on a human scale has always been the secret of success of the Terrail family who, throughout the 20th century, changed and renewed the face of the Tour d'Argent without ever touching its soul. Renovation work, a new visual identity and new recipes, contribute to writing a new page in the history of this French culinary monument.

André Terrail was keen for Artcurial, France's foremost auction house, to manage the organisation of this event. After the success of the auctions of the furniture from the Hotel Crillon and the Hotel Plaza Athénée in Paris and most recently, the Hotel de Paris in Monaco, François Tajan, *Deputy Chairman* and Stéphane Aubert, *Associate Director* will take the hammer of this exceptional sale. Artcurial is the French leader for luxury hotel auctions and over the past two years has totalled over 10,5 M€ / 11.4 M€ in this area of expertise.

2. GASTRONOMES, FROM THE TOP OF THIS TOWER, OVER 400 YEARS HISTORY LOOKS DOWN UPON US



PARIS. — 15. Quai de la Tournelle.

Frédéric Delair, the inventor of the famous « Canard Tour d'Argent »,
In front of the Tour d'Argent in 1892 ©Tour d'Argent

In 1582, under the reign of Henri IV an elegant '*auberge*' on the banks of the Seine opened up and welcomed noblemen who were fed up of frequenting dangerous haunts. Built from stone from the Champagne region with hints of silver, the restaurant was soon called the 'Tour d'Argent'. From the very beginning, the Tour d'Argent gained a sound reputation as a place of good living and elegant festivities specialising in poultry. It was here that Henri IV discovered the fork.

From the 17th century, the Tour d'Argent became a fashionable place frequented by the aristocracy. The elite of Versailles would come here for dinner, the young Duke of Richelieu, the nephew of Cardinal chose the Tour d'Argent to impress guests and host a dinner serving an entire beef cooked in 30 different ways.

The restaurant crosses centuries. In the 18th century, with the Enlightenment, the traditional cuisine was replaced by a more refined cuisine where one could come and dine and celebrate before this temple to French cuisine was ruined by the revolutionaries. After being closed for years, Lecoq, who was Napoléon 1st's personal chef bought the restaurant.

Under the Second Empire, the Tour d'Argent became not only a temple to Parisian gastronomy but also a theatre of gallant entertainment taking place in the salons on the first floor. Key figures of the literary world such as Georges Sand, Alfred de Musset, Alexandre Dumas, Honoré de Balzac became regulars of the Tour d'Argent.

Under the 3rd Republic, the famous recipe which brings worldwide recognition to the Tour d'Argent was born, Frédéric Delair took over the restaurant and invented the '*Canard Tour d'Argent*'. Delair decided to number the ducks which were served, cut up and prepared in front of the client and become an integral part of the restaurant's legendary status. In 2003, the Tour d'Argent celebrated its one-millionth duck!

3. FROM 1911, THE TERRAIL FAMILY PROSPER THE TEMPLE OF FRENCH GASTRONOMY.



Left: The façade of la Tour d'Argent in 1925 ©Tour d'Argent
Right: La Tour d'Argent after transformation ©Tour d'Argent

In 1911, The Terrail family took command of the Tour d'Argent.

André Terrail married Augusta Burdel whose family owned the famous *Café Anglais*, a social haunt for over half a century which was demolished in 1913. The rare bottles belonging to Claudius Burdel joined those of Frédéric Delair. and together they formed the most beautiful wine cellar of all of Paris which was the pride of André Terrail. The Tour d'Argent closed during the Second World War and then reopened in all its splendour welcoming famous guests. Marcel Proust, Sacha Guitry, Salvador Dali became regular customers.

In 1936, André Terrail added a sixth floor to the family-owned building and installed bay windows with a panoramic view over Notre Dame, l'île de la Cité and the river Seine. This very same year, his son, Claude who was 19 at the time, started working in the restaurant as a *maitre d'hôtel*. Claude had dreamt of being an actor and he took the reigns of the restaurant when his father passed away in 1947 and orchestrated a daily party at the restaurant for over 50 years.

After the Second World War, Claude Terrail took the Tour d'Argent far and made it prosper transforming it into a real life stage welcoming elegant and charismatic Parisian and international guests. Heads of states, stars, writers, and Royalty were all warmly greeted by the '*Maitre des lieux*' who hosted Pierre Mendès France, Marilyn Monroe, John Wayne, Orson Welles, Queen Elisabeth II, The Japanese Emperor Hirohito, amongst others.



When Claude Terrail passed away in 2006, André Terrail succeeded his father and has since been at the head of an independent and family-owned company hiring 120 people and generating a turnover of 12 million euros. André Terrail inherited a monument dedicated to French gastronomy and in 2011 he entrusted the kitchen to Laurent Delarbre, who has been awarded '*Meilleur Ouvrier de France*'. André Terrail is keen to modernise the family business whilst conserving the soul and art of receiving guests which has cemented its reputation over the years. With its impeccable service, the Tour d'Argent remains the ideal location for a special private celebration.

André Terrail
Current owner of the Tour d'Argent ©Tour d'Argent

4. THE TOUR D'ARGENT, A LOOK OUT POINT NESTLED BETWEEN THE SKY AND RIVER SEINE, A SONG OF BEAUTY ABOUT PARIS



The restaurant in 1938 photographed by René Jacques ©Tour d'Argent



The restaurant in 2015 ©Tour d'Argent

5. THE TOUR D'ARGENT, STAGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SCENE



Claude Terrail with Romy Schneider in 1964 ©Tour d'Argent



Maurice Chevallier and Rossano Brazzi in 1955 ©Tour d'Argent



Left: Claude Terrail with Lauren Bacall in 1952 ©Tour d'Argent ; Centre : Anita Ekberg in the cellar of the Tour d'Argent ©Tour d'Argent ; Right : Danielle Darieux and Philippe Noiret in 1968 ©Tour d'Argent



Claude Terrail with Linda and Paul McCartney in 1988



Wall of dedications ©Artcurial

6. AN EXCEPTIONAL WAY OF LIFE AT AUCTION

The catalogue of the Artcurial auction pays tribute to an exceptional French *art de vivre* or way of living and includes over 3000 pieces such as tablecloths, cutlery, plates, glasses copperware with the Tour d'Argent 'logo.' One duck press will be up for auction and is estimated at 4 000 – 6 000 € / 4 300 – 6 500 \$.

The Tour d'Argent possesses the largest glass collection in the world. All these engraved glasses were made especially to taste the wines of the Tour d'Argent. Each glass corresponds to a specific wine and there are 30 different models : 18 different wine glasses and 4 champagne glasses, all from the renowned Austrian brands Riedel. Artcurial will offer 200 lots of 12 glasses and in the catalogue the Head Sommelier David Ridgway explains the particularities of each.

120 metal goblets with the Tour d'Argent symbol encrusted will be sold and will accompany the historical lots of silverware, just like this glass offered by Prince Norodom Sihanouk (see photo page 2).

Other historical pieces include copperware used in the restaurant up until the 1980s when they were replaced. The entire copperware collection is estimated at roughly 4000-5000 € / 4 300 – 5 400 \$ and will be sold in several lots.



Lot of 6 silver goblets signed Tour d'Argent
estimation 200 – 300 € / 220 – 330 \$ ©Artcurial



200 lots of glassware ©Artcurial



Copperware from the Tour d'Argent ©Artcurial



Silver duck press
estimation 4 000 - 6 000 € / 4 300 – 6 500 \$
©Thomas Renault

7. ICONIC OBJECTS FROM THE TOUR D'ARGENT

Several items of furniture will be up for auction including a screen and tapisserie by Bernard Cathelin, the artist who lived at Quai de la Tournelle and created the new facade of the building. The catalogue will also include a large carpet over 7 metres long which was previously on the ceiling of the entrance downstairs; the exterior lanterns and two iconic sculptures from the restaurant including a character called 'le Canardier' and another called 'le Cuisinier Rôtisseur' (inspired by the figures of Arcimboldo and Larmessin).

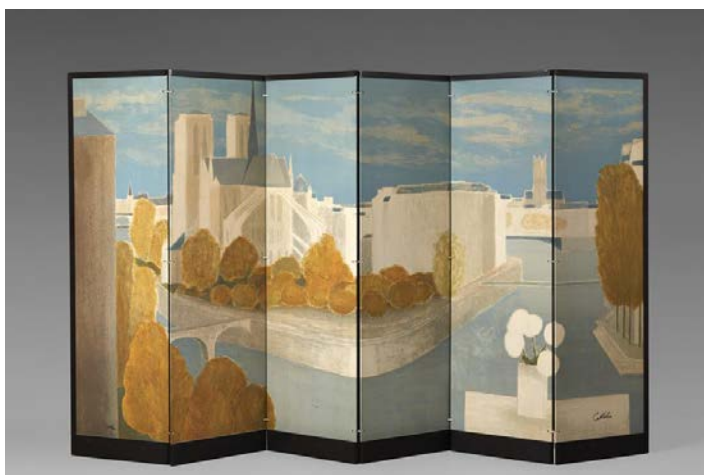
Objects from the Musée de la Table, a collection dedicated to the history of gastronomy gathered by the founder André Terrail which used to be on show at the restaurant, will also be on sale.



The famous « Canardier » ©Artcurial
Wood, metal and silver and gold leaf
H. 199 cm (Estimation 3 000 - 4 000 € / 3 300 -4 300 \$)

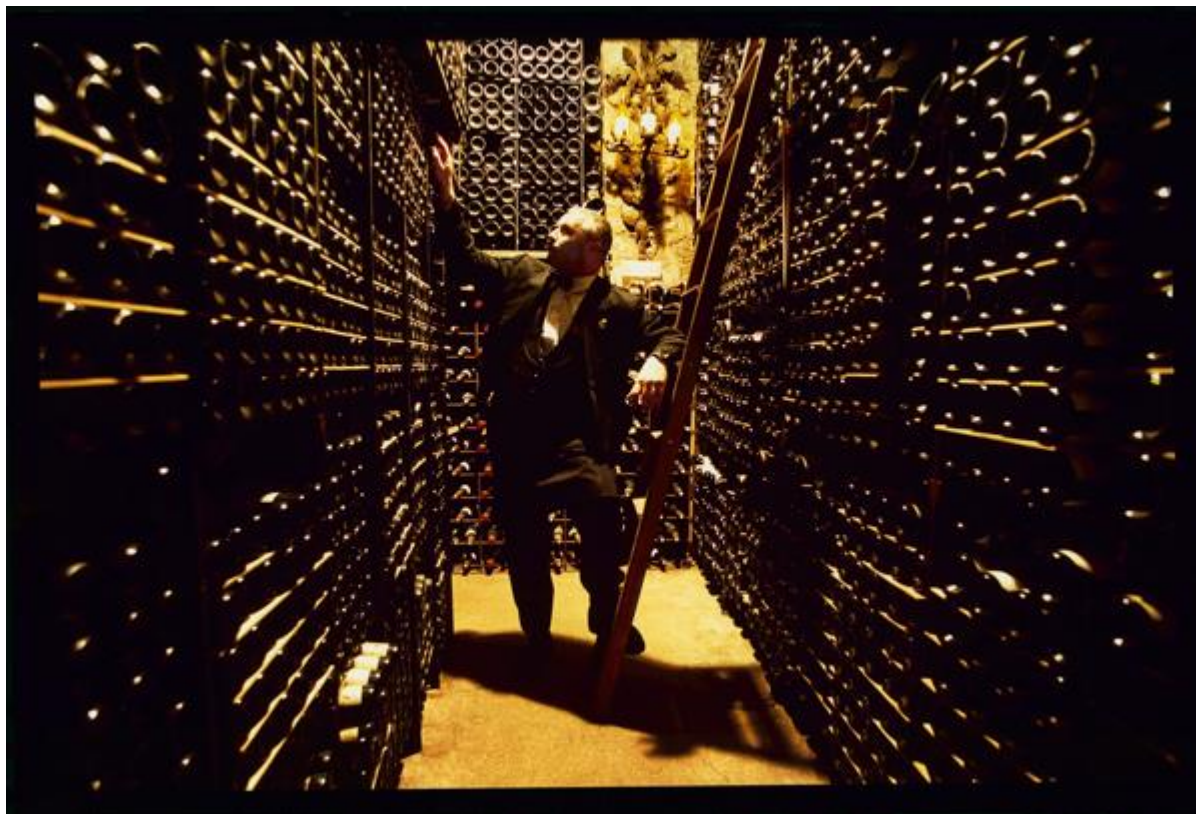


Large carpet from a Northern French manufacturer
©Tour d'Argent
Circa 1900
L. 315,5 cm l. 731 cm
(Estimation 4 000 - 5 000 € / 4 300 -5 400 \$)



Bernard CATHELIN , *Roses blanches pour Paris* ©Artcurial
Screen with six sections, coloured lithography on a signed
and numbered panel. EA V/XX H.
156,7 cm total length 168,5 cm
(estimation 2 000 - 3 000 € / 2 200 -3 300\$)

8. RARE SPIRITS FROM THE FAMOUS TOUR D'ARGENT WINE CELLAR



David Ridgway in the cellar of the Tour d'Argent ©Tour d'Argent



With over 350 000 bottles and 15 000 names, the Tour d'Argent wine cellar is reputed as being one of the best in the world and contains real treasures. A huge amount of historical bottles are still in the 'catacombs' of the Tour d'Argent, saved from the German Occupation by Claude Terrail who hid part of the cellar on the night of June 14th 1940. The cellar is a living museum and has been entrusted to David Ridgway the Chef Sommelier since 1981.

Around 60 bottles will be on sale with Artcurial including: Eaux de Vie, Cognac, Calvados, Porto, Madera et Armagnac. The majority of these were bottled in the cellar itself, something which was forbidden until the 20th century. The stone stairway and hook which was used to lift the barrels can still be seen and are proof of this activity.

Some old Cognacs dating back to the 19th century are estimated at 3 000 - 5 000 € / 3 300 – 5 400 \$ but the oldest bottle in the selection is a Grande Fine Clos du Griffier Cognac dating back to 1788 and estimated at 20 000 - 21 000 € / 22 000 – 23 000 \$. According to David Ridgway *"It is surprising how young this Cognac tastes "*

High-resolution images available on request
Catalogue available online at www.artcurial.com
Estimates in dollars provided as a guide

About Artcurial – Founded in 2002, Artcurial confirmed its position as the leading French auction house in 2014. It covers all the major specialist fields, from the Fine and Decorative Arts to Collectibles. With two sale venues (Paris and Monte-Carlo), the auction house achieved an overall sales total of 192 M€ in 2014, representing an increase of 50% in 3 years. It has confirmed its position as market leader for Comic Strips in Europe, Collectors' Cars in continental Europe, jewellery and watches in France and Monaco and Old Master Paintings in Paris. With a strong international bias, Artcurial maintains its presence abroad with offices in Milan, Vienna and Brussels, representatives in Beijing and Tel Aviv, and twice-yearly exhibitions in New York. In October 2015, Artcurial held its first sale in Hong Kong and in Morocco.

Follow the auction on Social Media

Follow the auction on the official Artcurial and Tour d'Argent Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts

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#Artcurialtakesthetower
#BringLaTourdArgenthome
#ArtcurialmeetsLaTourdArgent

Sale Date:

Monday 9th May 2016

Exhibition Dates:

From Friday 6th May 2016
To Sunday 8th May 2016

Artcurial
7, Rond-Point des Champs-Élysées
75008 Paris

Press Relations:

Art & Communication
Sylvie Robaglia
+ 33 6 72 59 57 34
sylvie@art-et-communication.fr

Contact Artcurial

Jean Baptiste Duquesne
Press Manager
+ 33 1 42 99 20 76
jbduquesne@artcurial.com

Contact Tour d'Argent:

Virginie Guyonnet
Head of Communication
+ 33 1 40 46 71 12
virginie_guyonnet@tourdargent.com

www.artcurial.com

