

Liquid assets 天价酒即将被拍卖

英语学习点: 有关酒的词汇 *Vocabulary: wine*

This week, wealthy wine connoisseurs will have the chance to get the vintage of their dreams... providing they don't lose their bottle at the last moment.

The auctioneer Sotheby's will be selling three collections of the finest wines in London. The wines come from exclusive vineyards in well-known areas such as Bordeaux, Burgundy and Champagne.



Because of their quality and rarity, each collection is expected to fetch a high price. But the price isn't just determined by the quality of the grape; the age of the wine can also make it a high-end product.

The most expensive bottle of white wine not bought at an auction was sold last July for £75,000 (752,000 yuan). This premium wine had reached the ripe old age of 200 - proof that the best things come to those who wait.

But the most expensive standard-sized bottle of wine ever – a Chateau Lafite 1869 – went for £151,000 (1.5 million yuan). That was truly a wine to be sipped, not quaffed!

For some members of the super-rich, the real joy of opening a top wine like that doesn't come from the bouquet, the complex flavours or that lingering finish – but from seeing the impressed look on your rivals' faces.

But other owners wouldn't dream of uncorking their liquid assets – they are kept, treasured in wine cellars and occasionally shown off like works of art, but when their value increases they sell them on.

But then, most of simply can't afford to splash out on fine wines. It's irritating... but what's the best remedy for dealing with those sour grapes? A cheap bottle of plonk from the supermarket, of course!

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Is this statement true, false or not given? The wine being sold at Sotheby's comes from London.
2. What do we call people who are experts on wine?
3. What English slang word relates to cheap wine you can buy at the supermarket?
4. Which expression in the article refers to someone losing their nerve when they are bidding for something in an auction?
5. Find two verbs that describe drinking wine.

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. Wine is made from grapes grown in _____.

farms	cellars	vineyards	plonk
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2. A top quality wine can also be described as a _____ wine.

nice	red	tasty
premium		

3. When you spend lots of money on something you are splashing out.

in	on	out	at
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4. The best things come to those who _____.

wine	wait	work	wash
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5. I'm sorry to hear that Lewis has been mean to you about your new job. Don't listen to him – it's just _____.

sour grapes	soured grapes	jealous grapes	sore grapes
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Is this statement true, false or not given? The wine being sold at Sotheby's comes from London. False: The wines come from exclusive vineyards in well-known areas such as Bordeaux, Burgundy and Champagne.
2. What do we call people who are experts on wine? Wine connoisseurs.
3. What English slang word relates to cheap wine you can buy at the supermarket? Plonk.
4. Which expression in the article refers to someone losing their nerve when they are bidding for something in an auction? The expression 'to lose your bottle' means to lose your nerve or to lose courage when a stressful situation occurs.
5. Find two verbs that describe drinking wine. To sip, which means to drink small amounts, and to quaff, which means to drink larger amounts quickly.

Exercise 练习

1. Wine is made from grapes grown in vineyards.
2. A top quality wine can also be described as a premium wine.
3. When you spend lots of money on something you are splashing out.
4. The best things come to those who wait.
5. I'm sorry to hear that Lewis has been mean to you about your new job. Don't listen to him – it's just sour grapes.

Glossary 词汇表

a connoisseur	(酒)鉴赏家
vintage	佳酿
to lose one's bottle	精神紧张
vineyard	葡萄园
Bordeaux	产自法国波尔多地区的葡萄酒
Burgundy	勃艮第(法国东南部地方的地名, 该地盛产红葡萄酒)
premium	高价
ripe old age	年久的(陈酿)
the best things come to those who wait	有耐心就能等到好东西
chateau	法国城堡
to sip	小口地喝
to quaff	大口大口地喝
bouquet	酒香
a lingering finish	回味
uncorking	开酒瓶
liquid assets	流动资产
wine cellars	酒窖
to splash out on	大笔花钱
sour grapes	吃不到葡萄就说葡萄酸
plonk	(俚语)便宜酒