

FOOD AND BEVERAGE

60-year-old whisky sets auction record

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The Macallan Valerio Adami 1926 just broke auction records. Image credit: Bonhams

By STAFF REPORT'S

Auction house Bonhams has sold a bottle from Scotch distillery The Macallan for more than \$1 million, making it the most expensive whisky sold at auction.

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A rare The Macallan Valerio Adami 1926 60 year old fetched 848,750 pounds, or about \$1.1 million at current exchange, at auction on Oct. 3 beating out the previous record. The interest in secondhand spirits sales is driving big-ticket auction results, with whiskies and The Macallan brand in particular seeing record sales ([see story](#)).

Rising results

Bonhams' held the previous auction record for whisky, having sold another bottle of The Macallan Valerio Adami 1926 in May for 814,000 pounds, or about \$1.06 million.

Bottled in 1986, the 60-year-old scotch was packaged with labels by artists Peter Blake and Valerio Adami. There were only 12 bottles created with each of the artist's labels, for a total of 24 limited-editions.

While the fate of the other 10 bottles with Mr. Adami's art is not certain, Bonhams says that one is believed to have been destroyed in a Japanese earthquake, with another purported to have been opened and drunk.

Prior to being up for sale at Bonhams, the bottle's owner had bought it from Macallan in 1994. The bottle is presented in a specially made cabinet.



The Macallan Valerio Adami 1926. Image credit: Bonhams

"I am delighted at this exceptional result," said Martin Green, Whisky specialist for Bonhams in Edinburgh. "It is a great honor to have established a new world record, and particularly exciting to have done so here in Scotland, the home of whisky."

"Bonhams now holds the record for the three most valuable bottles of whisky ever sold at auction," he said.

Affluent consumers' appetite for rare and valuable vintages of whisky is growing in both volume and value, rising by more than 90 percent in 2017, according to a report from Rare Whisky 101.

The first six months of 2017 saw demand for rare and vintage whiskies at auction reaching an unprecedented high. According to Rare Whisky 101's figures the current market for single malt Scotch whisky is at an all-time half year high ([see story](#)).