

£89,000 IS NO TRIFLE FOR A TRUFFLE

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A GIANT white truffle has sold at an auction in Italy for nearly £100,000.

The 900 gramme fungus was snapped up by a Hong Kong-based wine critic for £89,000. That works out at just under £100 per gramme.

Buyer Jeannie Cho Lee, a South Korean living in Hong Kong, brought the truffle together with friends.

Yesterday she promised to hold a “white truffle” feast when it arrives in the Far East today. She said that although she paid an “illogical price” for the fungus, dubbed a diamond of the kitchen, it was worth it. She said: “It is all for charity so it isn’t logical prices.”

The annual truffle auction is held in north Italian city of Alba, in the Piemonte region, which is considered to have the best “tartufo bianco” or white truffles in the world.

The Pope is also set to benefit from the auction as an Italian businessman who purchased three of the highly priced delicacies pledged to donate one to Benedict XVI. Antonio Bertolotto bought the three truffles for a total of £91,000.

Tomaso Zanoletti, an Italian senator who helped organise the auction said: “Truffle allows gourmets and gourmands from around the world to meet up in this corner of the Piemonte region.” The proceeds from the auction, which rose just over £250,000 will go to fund Italian scholarships and charities as well as the Mother’s Choice children’s charity in Hong Kong.



Revered as a delicacy often used in gourmet cooking like above, a giant white truffle has sold at an auction in Italy for nearly £100,000.