

CHATEAU MUSAR ROUGE 2000



92 points Wine & Spirits - "Serge Hochar's estate red has a sweet, earthy succulence in 2000 that's hard to resist, a combination of raspberry liqueur, mocha, black olives and very rich earth. It's all interwoven with chewy, firm tannins and stony minerality. The structure should hold it for another decade." (6/2009)

91 points Wine Enthusiast - "Exceptional concentration, structure and balance mark this 11-year old blend of Cab, Cinsault and Carignan that's ripe with cassis and plums and a plume of smoke, earth and barnyard funk. Tannins subdued into a powdery softness, it's elegantly textured yet full and forward with a rich, layered complexity."

Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault and Carignan. The color is a deep dark red, perhaps darker than usual at Chateau Musar. The nose is a complex, intriguing mixture of figs, prunes, leather, dark tea, tobacco, black olives with spices and a certain earthiness. On the palate, you will find ripe black cherries, figs, damsons-even chocolate and olives. There is good acidity with nice smooth tannins resulting in a wine which full-bodied, rich and velvety with very long length. with a very approachable and open style. Organic.

The 2000 vintage of Chateau Musar is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault and Carignan – approximately one third of each. It was fermented in cement vats and then aged for one year in French Nevers oak barriques. It was blended and bottled at the end of the third year following the harvest and aged for a further three to four years in the cellars of Chateau Musar at Ghazir, before its release in May 2007. In summary we feel that the 2000 vintage is a serious wine with serious ageing potential, but with a very approachable and open style which makes it perfect for drinking now as well as for cellaring.

The wines of Chateau Musar are unique expressions from a country with an ancient winemaking culture, as vines have been cultivated from Lebanon's high altitude Bekaa Valley for over 6,000 years. The vineyards of Chateau Musar are located in the Bekaa Valley and in Mount Barouk, around Kefraya and Aana, which is about a two-hour drive from the winery in Ghazir, just north of Beirut. The Bekaa Valley receives an average of 300 days of sunshine annually, and 39–78 inches of rain per year. The Bekaa has a Mediterranean climate and an altitude of more than 3,000 feet above sea level. The soil is predominately gravelly with a limestone base.

Chateau Musar was founded in 1930 by Gaston Hochar. In 1959, after studying oenology at the University of Bordeaux, his son Serge became winemaker. The civil war that tore Lebanon apart from 1975 to 1990 did not defeat Chateau Musar; Serge refused to abandon the wine, and lost only the 1976 and 1984 vintages to the war. Owing to his inspiring determination and grand passion for his wines, Serge received the inaugural "Man of the Year Award" from Decanter magazine in 1984. Recognition from Michael Broadbent, at the 1979 Bristol Wine Fair, threw Musar into the international spotlight and helped create a cult-like following. Chateau Musar is one of the most written-about and discussed wines in the world today. Every wine of Chateau Musar is produced naturally with a 'non-interventionist' wine making philosophy and the winery was the first in Lebanon to implement organically certified viticulture.

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Tasting Note:

CHATEAU MUSAR ROUGE 2000

Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault & Carignan. Aromas of figs, prunes, leather, dark tea, tobacco, black olives, spices & a certain earthiness; flavors of black cherries, figs, chocolate & olives; good acidity with nice smooth tannins; full-bodied, rich & velvety with very long length. A very approachable & open style. Organic.

Shelf Talker:



CHATEAU MUSAR ROUGE 2000

Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault & Carignan. The color is a deep dark red. Complex aromas of figs, prunes, leather, dark tea, tobacco & black olives with spices & a certain earthiness. On the palate, you will find ripe black cherries, figs, damsons-even chocolate & olives. There is good acidity with nice smooth tannins resulting in a wine which is full-bodied, rich & velvety with very long length. A very approachable & open style. Organic.

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