

CHATEAU MUSAR ROUGE 2013



An equal blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault and Carignan. A dense deep red with their characteristic sweet, savory, spicy blend of Cinsault, Carignan and Cabernet Sauvignon. Tastings from the vats in the winter of 2013 revealed elegance and roundness with a spice-dominant palate – licorice, clove, cinnamon with a warm coulis of red fruits. There are raspberries and blueberries on the palate, this is an elegant vintage, integrated and balanced with fine tannin. No sense of Cabernet Sauvignon here, a more Cinsault dominated vintage with softer red fruits. Organic.

The 2013 harvest at Chateau Musar could be summarized in one word – elegance. Rain and snowfall during the winter of 2012/13 was higher than in previous years, a welcome change after many years of poor rainfall. April was cooler than usual and in May, the vineyards were exceptionally green due to the combination of the winter and spring weather. Flowering was successful and yields were healthy but we experienced a week of intense heat in late August which resulted in high sugar contents of the Cabernet Sauvignon and Carignan – the only red variety that did not react to the climatic changes was the Cinsault which was harvested last on the 27th September.

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. The white vines are 100–150 years old, and are located at 4,000 feet above sea level.

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 2013

Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault & Carignan.
A dense, deep red with a sweet, savory, spicy blend; elegant & round with a spice-dominant palate – licorice, clove & cinnamon with a warm coulis of red fruits, raspberries & blueberries; elegant, integrated & balanced; fine tannin. Organic.

Shelf Talker:

