

CHATEAU MUSAR ROUGE 2011



94 points – Decanter - *“A challenging and unusual vintage in Lebanon has given this Musar additional Bordeaux style, with mulberries, cherry, spice and rounded tannins on the palate.” Andy Howard MW (02/2019)*

Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault and Carignan. A dark blood red color with a rich, fragrant fruit nose; mulberries, black cherries, plums with a hint of mocha. The palate is very intense and concentrated, it's full of volume and characterized by forest and black fruits with elegant spice. The tannins are soft and juicy and it has a lengthy finish. Chateau Musar Red 2011 is a vibrantly powerful vintage and cellared well it will keep for decades. A great match for red meats, especially game, seasonal casseroles and mature cheeses. Organic.

The harvest of 2011 posed one of the most challenging experiences in wine-making at Chateau Musar over the last 20 years, as it was one of the most untypical years in Lebanese history. The year began with a cold January but with insufficient rain. February proved similar with March being sunnier but April and May produced the really big surprise with a level of rainfall to match January, February and March combined! The harvest was finally completed on the 13th October, which with the exception of our 1983 vintage, was the latest in the company's history. From vineyards near the Bekaa Valley villages of Aana and Kefraya on gravelly soils over limestone. Planted from the 1930s onwards, yields are low from these mature bushvines, average age: 40 years. Bottled in 2014 after gentle maturation which included a year's rest in French oak.

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 2011

Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault & Carignan.
A rich, fragrant fruit nose; mulberries, black cherries, plums with a hint of mocha; intense & concentrated, it's full of volume & characterized by forest & black fruits with elegant spice; soft & juicy tannins with a lengthy finish. Organic.

Shelf Talker:

CHATEAU MUSAR ROUGE 2011



Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault & Carignan. A dark blood red color with a rich, fragrant fruit nose; mulberries, black cherries, plums with a hint of mocha. The palate is intense & concentrated, it's full of volume & characterized by forest & black fruits with elegant spice. Soft & juicy tannins with a lengthy finish. A vibrantly powerful vintage, cellared well it will keep for decades. Pair with red meats, especially game, seasonal casseroles & mature cheeses. Organic.

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