

CHATEAU MUSAR ROUGE 2014



Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault and Carignan. A deep red color, with aromas of sweet cherry, plum and dried fruit together with a subtle spice element and a hint of tobacco. The wine has a soft, rounded mouthfeel with lots of flavor and fruit concentration – caramel, mocha, ripe red fruits which are supported with soft, velvety tannins and a spicy finish. Organic.

A year for the history books, where the mountains of Lebanon failed to turn white with snow. Very low rainfall, snow or cold weather. April, May, June and July, where buds open and flowering occurs was perfect for the vines, but missing one very important element - water. By early August, the vines were starting to suffer badly. The first day of the red grape harvest saw four teams harvesting simultaneously for the first time in Chateau Musar history. Each varietal was fermented with natural yeasts in concrete vats. The wines were aged for 12 months in French oak barrels before blending in January 2017 and bottled without fining or filtration in July and August 2017. The bottles are aged in the Chateau Musar cellars before their release in 2021.

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 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, when he was only 20 years old. 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:

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Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault & Carignan. Aromas of cherry, plum & dried fruit with subtle spice & tobacco; a soft, rounded mouthfeel with lots of fruit concentration – caramel, mocha, ripe red fruits; soft, velvety tannins & a spicy finish. Organic.

Shelf Talker:

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