



## CHATEAU MUSAR RED 1998

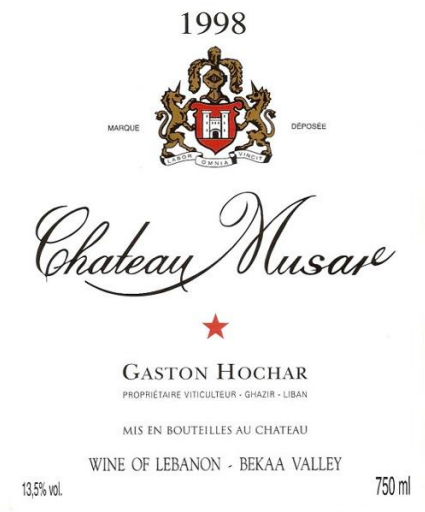
The winter preceding the 1998 harvest was a normal Lebanese winter- a mixture of cold, rainy and snowy weather with several weeks of sunshine. This was followed by a cold, wet spring which lasted until June. Summer followed its normal pattern, although from June until October there was no rain at all.

The harvest started on the 9<sup>th</sup> September with mixed maturity levels: some grapes were already quite mature, whilst we delayed harvesting others for up to two more weeks. There was no obvious reason for this diversity, but this is 'les caprices de la nature'.

The crop was good in terms of both quality and quantity – the grapes were healthy and very good to eat. Fermentation progressed smoothly, although slightly more quickly than usual, maceration was up to four weeks and the wines spent one year in French Nevers oak casks. It was blended in September 2000 and bottled in August 2001.

The 1998 is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault and Carignan, which come from vineyards with an average age of 40 years. This vintage has more Cinsault, making it very fragrant and aromatic.

The wine is smooth and balanced with soft harmony- seductive and immensely appealing.



**"A relatively pale, light vintage but this has relatively mature, classic, sweetly cedary aromas already, with smooth, graceful flavours of wheat and raisin."**

*Andrew Jefford - Decanter Magazine  
December 2003*

**"Noticeably sweet and soft, harmonious with evident acidity and good length."**

*Michael Broadbent – Musar Masterclass  
Christies November 2004*

**... A distinctive and sumptuous, full-flavoured, deep brick-red coloured wine, with succulent depth... exhibiting complex, aromatic and concentrated layers of rich, soft, ripe berry and stewed sweet stone-fruit characters, with suggestions of cedar and spice... balanced and structured this attractive, expressive, seductively enticing wine beguiles and excites... excellent with game and rich meat dishes... approachable now though will continue to develop over the next five years or so."**

*Michael Whiteside – Broadcaster. BBC Radio*