



Chateau Musar

CHATEAU MUSAR RED 1993

Tasting Note

1993 was a good year in Lebanon. The winter was rainy and cold but not excessively so. April was mild but was followed by a cold May with some frost, reducing the crop by about 10% and affecting those vineyards where flowering was more advanced. The rest of spring and summer were fairly normal. The weather became very hot in the last week before harvesting, which started on Thursday 16th September, by which time we had a very good maturity.

The fruit was ripe and well balanced with a good acidity and sugar content. Colour is rich and dark and the grapes had a fragrant aroma. At the time Serge Hochar stated that "it is a pleasure to eat the grapes, I hope it will be even better to drink them!"

This has certainly proved to be the case as the Red 1993 is delicious, it is in the Bordeaux/Cabernet style, very supple and well balanced. Complex layers of rich berry fruits; mulberries, blackberries and redcurrants - there are also soft ripe fruits such as cherries and damsons with the characteristic "Musar" spiciness and cedar notes. Good acidity and long fine length - certainly a pleasure to drink as Serge predicted in September 1993!

Deep orange/red to orange at rim. More animal on the nose than the 1994, layered with redcurrants and spicy notes. Big and sweet, with more balance than the 1994, and flavours of sweet strawberries, mushrooms, hay and subtle oak. Long, spicy and dry on the finish, this complex wine is drinking superbly now.

Citation

"This is what Musar is all about - medium deep (none of this opaque blockbuster nonsense, ripe bouquet, touch of sweetness wearing its 13.5 (13.7 to be precise) alcohol lightly. It has a deft touch, unblatant, unvarietal. *Wine*, not fruit juice."

Michael Broadbent

The Liquor Board of Ontario - Vintages Tasting Report June 2001

This amazing red hails from a winery that has gained global respect for producing excellent quality in the most unlikely of regions and through very difficult political times when civil war racked Lebanon.

Made largely from cabernet with a bit of cinsault, this maturing vintage explodes with intense, leathery, dried fruit and peppery aromas and flavours. It's full bodied, open knit a bit volatile and edgy but very exciting on the palate. Great sweet, sour and spice flavour tensions and outstanding length.

Enjoyable now should hold ten years. Last year I did a six vintage vertical tasting back in to the early 1980's and was never disappointed.