



Chateau Musar

CHATEAU MUSAR WHITE 2004

Chateau Musar White is a truly unique white, made from ancient Lebanese varieties Obaideh and Merwah, dating back thousands of years. Reputedly the ancestors of Chardonnay and Semillon, they are among only 6 indigenous grapes still commercially cultivated in Lebanon. The vineyards were planted between 50-90 years ago, at around 1,300 metres above sea level in the foothills of the Anti-Lebanon Mountains near Ain Arab on stony, chalky soils, and on the seaward side of Mount Lebanon in Baqaâta, on calcareous gravels. The vines remain phylloxera-free, and are still on their own roots. Few vineyards of this calibre remain in the world.

The style is reminiscent of a dry Sauternes, or a mature white Graves: rich and intensely zesty, with very complex, long-lasting flavours. As such, the wine benefits from decanting and is best served at around 15°C ('cellar cool' rather than chilled) with fine foods of similar richness: foie gras, rillettes, roast duck, spicy Asian dishes and goat cheeses as well as fruit and light desserts.



Vintage Notes

In 2004 There was snow in the Bekaa Valley until March; spring lasted until June, and was followed by a very mild, gentle summer. Fresh, cool breezes were present throughout the year and the grapes were slow to mature.

The Obaideh and Merwah grapes were brought to the winery on the 12th and 20th of October respectively; sugar content did not exceed 12%, acidity was high, pH low: it was a year of fruits and freshness. Aromas of almonds, honey and mandarins follow through to the palate together with pears, figs, peaches and buttery notes on the long finish.