



Chateau Musar

HOCHAR PERE ET FILS RED 2005

Hochar Père et Fils Red has been referred to by some as the ‘second’ wine of Chateau Musar but this is not an accurate description. Rather than being made from ‘declassified’ grapes deemed unsuitable for inclusion in the ‘Grand Vin’, it is actually sourced from a single vineyard planted over 50 years ago at 1,000 metres above sea level near the village of Aana in the Bekaa Valley, characterised by deep gravelly soil over a limestone base.

Low yields (25-30 hectolitres per hectare) result in concentrated, complex wines and the altitude keeps the average yearly temperature at around 25 ° Celsius, encompassing snowy winters and hot summers.

We experienced rather unusual weather in 2005 in Lebanon – unequalled in 38 years. The rain and snow in January lasted until mid February, followed by just the rain through March and April. Humid but mild weather then set in from May until September, with one day of rain on the 23rd July – highly unusual! The combination of high levels of humidity and comparatively low temperatures affected maturity and harvesting was delayed by approximately 10 days.

It was hardly surprising, therefore, that upon arrival of the grapes at the winery on the 18th September, we recorded medium alcohol content and high acidity. Fermentation was similar to the summer temperatures – never reaching high temperatures.

As with all vintages of Hochar Père et Fils, the blend is comprised mostly of Cinsault (50%), with Cabernet-Sauvignon (15%), Carignan (15%) and Grenache (20%). The grapes were fermented at 29 ° C with 15 to 20 days maceration in cement vats, followed by 9 months in French Nevers oak barrels and blended in the spring of 2007.

The 2005 vintage is a rich, ruby red with a nose full of fruits and spices – ripe black and red cherry fruit, smoky with a hint of cigar box and dark chocolate. Smooth and richly textured with a spicy red fruit palate, including prunes, damsons and plums, cherries and fresh tea leaves. This is an elegant and balanced wine with a long, mellow finish of mature fruits, chocolate and spice.

