



Chateau Musar

CHATEAU MUSAR RED 1991

Tasting Note

A good rainy winter, moderately cold with an average amount of snow was followed by a fresh spring with late rains and also some frost, which affected some vineyards although it was fortunately before flowering.

Summer was quite fresh ~ even becoming quite cold at the end of August which caused me to be concerned about achieving good maturity. We finally started harvesting on the 16th September as weather had been warm for 10 days and we were fearful of heavy rain. Fortunately this didn't happen and we finished harvesting the reds on the 2nd October in sunny warm weather. The whites were harvested the following week.

The crop quantity was below average - probably due to frost and the cold weather in the Spring with smaller grapes than usual. Acidity was high but sugar content was equally high which was a good surprise and fermentation proceeded smoothly and regularly. This vintage is now looking very good but we will need another two to three years to have a much better idea!

Serge HOCHAR - October 1991

Citations

“1991 is still a massive vintage but to my palate it remains a mystery, a magic blend of power, complexity and endless fruit. I tasted it yesterday again and my first notes were wonder: was I drinking wine or some cherry liqueur? I was lost and it took me two hours to understand how big it was! my mouth was full of very ripe big black cherries from the high mountains of Lebanon. I have nothing to add until I find a formula to let this vintage express its power in the finest way.”

Serge HOCHAR - April 29th 1992

“Dark ruby colour - bright and beautiful. The nose is chocolate, animal, tobacco and leather. Very complex and rich, red fruits, spices, olives and lots of fruits. Very harmonious and well balanced. Very long length with chestnut flavours and long fine grain.”

October 1997.

For Serge, the 1991 was a great year - combining sweetness and power.

“1991: Red currant, tomato and a certain rooty/meaty quality mark the bouquet. Full bore plum, tomato, cherry and currant flavours are offset by a barely perceptible kiss of oak.”

Michael Schnacher - The Wine Enthusiast October 2000

“Very pale garnet with brick over-tones. Leathery aromas of red fruits carry on to the palate. Sweet notes on a drying finish.”

Wine Magazine July 2001

Intensely aromatic red cherry, spices and both red and dark fruits on the nose and palate. Very deep and complex with polished tannins and outstanding length. Knockout wine, and still remarkably youthful. Tasted in November 2015.

Andrew Jefford