



*Chateau Musar*

## **Hochar Père et Fils Red 2015**

Hochar Père et Fils is sourced from specially selected vineyards 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 wine and the altitude keeps the average yearly temperatures at around 25 ° C, encompassing cold, snowy winters, mild springs and hot summers.

The Hochar Père et Fils 2015 is a blend of Cinsault (50%), Grenache (35%) and Cabernet Sauvignon (15%) – the grapes were fermented between 27 ° C and 29 ° C with maceration in cement vats, followed by 6 months in French Nevers oak barrels. It was blended in the spring of 2017 and bottled later on that year.

We had a promising start to 2015, January and February giving us lots of rain and snow, followed, in March by more snow giving way to warmer weather by the end of the month. This instilled optimism, but unfortunately, we were brought down to earth in mid-April with exceptionally cold nights. Temperatures were down to minus 8° C and in one instance – 12 ° C ruining buds already in the process of opening. By early May, we were looking out on hectares of blackened vines and the situation looked catastrophic but gradually green shoots emerged from the stems of the vines. However, as expected we knew we would end up with dramatically reduced quantities. The Cinsault harvest started on the 8th September with a loss of 70%, Cabernet Sauvignon was down 65% on our normal quantities and Grenache was harvested on the 11th September with a loss of 50%! 2015 was a hard year for us in Lebanon and one which emphasized that we can never take viticulture for granted.

The Hochar of this year is a bright ruby colour – there are red fruits on the nose; bitter sweet cherries with a hint of dark chocolate. Classic bright red fruits flavours and sweet, spicy notes follow through to the palate. The tannins are soft, the acidity fresh with very long length. Cellared well, it will keep for several years.

13.5% Alc./Vol

