

Chateau Musar Red 1969



Overview

In those days how many things we knew? It was early stages, only. I remember that we had a good cold winter and a very nice sunny summer. The grapes reached full maturity, so it was an impressive vintage. Taste it today and... amazingly enough when it was young it was over the hill and as it's getting older it is back on the hill. This is why I say my wines get younger every day! – Serge Hochar

Grape Varietals

Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault, Carignan

Winemaking

Natural yeast fermentation's of the individual grape varietals with minimal sulphur additions. Aged in French oak then blended and bottled.

Tasting Notes

Mature medium colour with edges showing the age, distinctive nose, fruity and classy. Intense characters, drinking beautifully combining elegance and power.

In the glass, it is a vintage where the Cinsault component tends to dominate; a paler and deceptively fragile colour, yet the characteristic aroma and flavour is undeniably powerful and persistent. Initial fragrance of delicate fruit and tertiary development evolves in the glass to give a caramelised, almost roasted coffee note and dried fruit/spice finish.

Slightly faded but still elegant, with the same richness and texture that apparently are hallmarks of the estate – Terry Robards, The New York Times, April 1981

First noted at the Bristol Wine Fair in 1979: it was already very mature-looking, there was very little red; extraordinary character like an overripe, singed Pinot Noir; dry, surprisingly full-bodied and swingeing tannins. It reminded me of a South African Shiraz. Over 20 years later, orange-tinged; slightly raisiny bouquet; sweet, nice weight. No harsh edges. Delicious. Amazing development. Last tasted presale at Christie's, April 2000 – Michael Broadbent

Tawny/orange colour. The best of the old wines of the tasting, if not wine of the night. Wow, I wish I had a few of these in the cellar to spring on friends. Older notes of earth, dried leaves, leather and cedar. Mouth-filling sweet juice with surprisingly lively tannins that are in synch with the fruit. Grown in the year of Woodstock and the first-ever moon landing, this is as plush as a new carpet and much more juicy and dense than I have tasted in almost any wines above. At 36, this is simply a stunning example of what Musar is capable of. Bravo! – Roy Hersh for jancisrobinson.com, February 2005

Very intense, savoury maturity. Full bodied, smooth texture, hints of truffles, black olives and pepper. Great balance of dried fruits and acidity. Still can mature on! – Carol Brown's Wine Uncorked, November 2010

A big, concentrated and powerful wine that is aging brilliantly. Silky in texture (a common feature of Musar; I always suspect I can thank the Carignan and its acidity for that), it is gripping on the end and beautifully constructed. It fleshes out in the glass magically, becoming fuller and more lush. At times, this made me quite enthusiastic. It is remarkably young for its age.– Mark Squires, RobertParker.com, June 2013

Pale rust red with a very pale rim. Much more obviously sweet and less ethereal than the 1961. This smells like delicious old-fashioned red burgundy (possibly out of Algeria and the Rhône). There's a bit of alcohol on the end. Thoroughly rumbustious. What an impact! Sweet violet compote. Fine, long-polished tannins have almost completely receded. Lots of fun. Very slight powderiness on the finish – Jancis Robinson, March 2018

Alcohol

14% Alc./Vol.