

Chateau Musar Red 1970



Overview

Mistakenly, the most Bordeaux wine I ever made. This was unintentional. I was trying to reflect Lebanon in all its guises, all its aspects. It had more Cabernet Sauvignon than any wine I've ever made, but this was when I could play as I wanted - there were no rules to command me, so I just blended according to my palate - Serge Hochar

Grape Varietals

Cabernet Sauvignon, Carignan, Cinsault, Merlot

Winemaking

After separate varietal vinification, the wines were aged for 24 months in French oak barrels. A predominantly Cabernet Sauvignon based blend was assembled and bottled.

Tasting Notes

Dark red, almost black, and rich with the fruit of the Cabernet Sauvignon grape, conveying a flavour intensity characteristic of the best Bordeaux or perhaps one of the great California estates where the cabernet also achieves superb quality. Although the wine clearly would have ranked among the best in any blind tasting of fine Bordeaux, the circumstances suggested that it would be from somewhere else, probably California ...with a woodier bouquet and the same hints of black currants. The flavour again was intensely Cabernet, with great body and texture. It was still tannic and big, but also redolent with fruit - Terry Robards, New York Times, April 1981

The Chateau Musar 1970 from the Lebanon, believed to be the best year that extraordinary enterprise has ever produced - Auberon Waugh, The Spectator, November 1983

With The 1970, perhaps the star of the range, we returned to the Cabernet flavours - a sweet, rich, and complex wine, reminiscent of Chateau Figeac. This wine had spent more than two years in cask, and still has a good life ahead of it - Steven Spurrier, The Field, December 1984

1970 In 1983, richly coloured; pine needles and vanilla; soft, velvety, well-balanced, yet powerful and plump like Ch Pétrus. Labelled 'Réserve Rouge Grand Cru', still deep and rich, complete. Last tasted pre-sale at Christie's, April 2000 - Michael Broadbent

Beautifully evolved with sweet herby aromas and mature leathery notes. The palate is slightly raisined and figgy, with good balance. Interesting stuff. Very good/excellent - Jamie Goode, September 2001

A big, muscular Musar, still tannic with a long life ahead. We have tasted it on several occasions and it has always presented itself as a wine of world class - DN Vinguide Norway, June 2002

Dark shaded ruby; this is just the sort of colour I would expect from a 1970 red Bordeaux. Light, very Cabernet nose. If I were given this blind I would be extremely tempted to head straight for Bordeaux, though it would have to be a comely château such as Palmer perhaps, and a fairly ripe vintage. Perhaps 1961?! But then there is probably more sweetness and a bit more exoticism than one would find in a Bordeaux of this evident age... Mouth-filling and again that note of violets, candied this time. A little dusting of tannins on the end. Lovely wine - Jancis Robinson, March 2018

Alcohol

14% Alc./Vol.