

# Chateau Musar Red 1975



## Overview

The year will be remembered as the start of the Lebanese Civil War which would last fifteen years. During this time, the domestic market naturally contracted – the Paris of the Middle East to where film stars vacated would become a thing of the past; tourism ceased so export markets in Europe became the new focus.

As the warm, sunny summer of 1975 drew to a close and the *vendage* approached, the winery's press had to undergo last minute repairs. By 24<sup>th</sup> October, all grapes had been picked and fermentation was well underway.

## Grape Varietals

Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault, Carignan

## Winemaking

The three grape varieties were destemmed and fermented separately in concrete tanks, racked and aged for 12 months in French Nevers oak barrels. Moving closer to the equal parts blend that was to become Musar in the following years, 1975 was blended and bottled in 1978. Bottles were aged in the cellars prior to release.

## Tasting Notes

The 1975, 1969 and 1967 styles are similar and appear to be more Cinsault dominated. Always much paler in colour than other, more Cabernet Sauvignon dominant vintages. Their maturity reveals a ruby hue with a hint of tawny. Certainly a more forward vintage; an extraordinary bouquet with a touch of the *sauvage* and taste which is something on its own.

*The Musar 1975 was fruity, light and pleasant* – International Herald Tribune, 1981

*Very fruity, scented, at Hochar's London tasting in 1979. A whiff of high volatile acidity but flavoury the following summer, with bottle variation. Stylish but acidic at Nils Sternby's birthday tasting of the best '75s from around the world. Yet showing well recently: luminous, lovely glow; lovely nose and flavour, with refreshing acidity. Last tasted pre-sale at Christie's, April 2000* – Michael Broadbent

*The 1975 had a strong sensation of violets on the nose, a lighter colour and elegance with an almost undefinable character that I noted as 'wild' as in the sense of 'wild card'. A full-bodied strong finishing red like a Pomerol. The wine had a smooth texture, plummy, spicy flavours and a beautifully complex aroma. It reminded me most of a 20-year-old Bordeaux* – The Wine Spectator

*Pretty pale ruby. Not as fresh as some though it delivers lots of naughty pleasure. Dustiness slightly trumps the fruit. It's a tad dried out on the end, though the flavours are a delight. Clean finish. A bit like a mix of mature vintage port, lemon juice and water. I'd like just slightly more fruit concentration in the middle* – Jancis Robinson, March 2018

## Alcohol

14% Alc./Vol.