



# Chateau Musar

## LIBRARY VINTAGE REVIEWS

BY JANCIS ROBINSON

### Blanc 1989

Pale amber, very broad bouquet that hits you like a cloud not an arrow. Not oxidized but waxy, with a green, vegetal Sémillon note on the nose. The palate has depth, presence and something salty about it—but citrus too. Bone dry, with a hint of walnuts; light in the mouth. Truly unlike any other wine. Fully mature but definitely not decayed. Extremely clean 12.5% alc. • Drink 2000-2024



### Blanc 2003

Pale golden amber. Lively edge of green veginess on a broad palate with relatively low acidity and a lanolin quality that reminds me much more of Sémillon than Chardonnay. Very sprightly on the palate. Obviously oak aged with real structure. Medium body – but what a lot of flavor... Quite a challenge to work out the right food for this. Drink 2015-2030.



### Blanc 2008

Pale gold. Spicy (savory, Indian spice) nose. I want to say ambergris – more out of onomatopoeia than aroma. Still rather sour without the roundness of mature fruit to counterbalance quite marked acidity which the accompanying notes attributes to the age of the vines. Definitely worth keeping until more complexity counterbalances the acidity. 12% alc. • Drink 2020-2035



### Rouge 1961

Sweet, rich and thoroughly exotic. Old leather handbags? With some biscuit slurry (dunked, not-too-gingery ginger nuts?). Ethereal and lifted. Beautiful sweetness as it hits the palate and then real freshness and super-clean, thoroughly mature aromas. Gloriously mature but not at all old. Does taste like a wine from a bygone age... Long and rich on the finish. 14% alc. • Drink 1980-2028



### Rouge 1969

Pale rust red with a very pale rim. 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. 14% alc. • Drink 1984-2024



### Rouge 1970

Dark shaded ruby; this is the color I would expect from a 1970 bordeaux. Light, Cabernet nose. If I were given this blind I would be extremely tempted to head straight for bordeaux, but then there is more sweetness and exoticism than one would find in a bordeaux of this age... Mouth-filling, with notes of candied violets. A little dusting of tannins on the end. Lovely. 14% alc. • Drink 1985-2022



### Rouge 1975

Pretty pale ruby. The first wine to smell perhaps a little too old. 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. 14% alc • Drink 1990-2020



### Rouge 1980

Marked bottle deposit on the shoulder. Pale rust red. Very vigorous, palate-grabbing start. Full of life with light tannins on the end. Very impressive even if it's still quite youthful. Really very difficult to assign a score to. Wonderfully impressive in every respect and this tastes as though it has a great future. A note of decay dissipated. 14% alc. • Drink 2008-2030



### 1989 Carignan

Tall bottle. Designed to commemorate Serge Hochar's 50th anniversary. He chose this particular vat of Carignan from a single vineyard. Mid ruby – still with quite a depth of colour. Particularly cheesy nose – very different from the usual Ch Musar. It is a tiny bit tart and lighter than most but still very appealing in the great scheme of things. A tiny bit rustic. 14% alc. • Drink 2000-2022



## Rouge 1994

Mid ruby. Pale rim. Heady, animal nose. Jewel-sweet fruit and quite an aggressive attack. Still quite edgy. For the moment it could do with a little more concentration in the middle. But it's certainly sweet at the beginning. Very confident and vigorous. Reminds me a bit of the 1980. Some light tannins evident on the end. Still resolving itself but admirably transparent. 14% alc • Drink 2012-2028



## Rouge 1998

Pale, particularly bright garnet. Light, spicy, particularly well-integrated nose. Already well developed. Sweet start and very nicely mature. Seems just right now. The opposite of heavy. Lifted, jewel-bright. Really lovely wine. Fresh, sweet with some very slight mintiness. Dry finish. Very long. One of my favorite vintages. Is it the Cinsault I like so much? 13.5% alc. • Drink 2012-2030



## Rouge 1999

Bright garnet. Pale rim. Broad and rich with a minty note. More mainstream than many in terms of its build and flavours. Still evolving but beautifully balanced. Lots of energy and transparency. No heaviness at all. Rich but lifted. Already gorgeous but there are tannins behind the exotic fruit and brilliant freshness. Still quite youthful. 14% alc. • Drink 2016-2036



## Rouge 2001

Cork was unwilling to be extracted so we had to taste from a bottle in which it floated. Mid rust red. Pale rim. Rather heavy nose. Dense and mushroomy. Quite a contrast to the ethereal 1999. Dusty chewiness on the end after a slightly obvious sweetness at the start. Lacks a little bit of freshness, but there is some interesting maturation. 13.5% alc. • Drink 2013-2028



## Rouge 2003

Mid garnet. A little marine influence on the somewhat reticent nose. Rather different from many Musars. Sweet start and very vigorous and fun. It already gives masses of pleasure with some milk-chocolate notes and quite a bit of light dry tannin on the end. Excellent drive. Long and dramatically big but with good freshness on the end. 14% alc. • Drink 2016-2035



## Rouge 2006

Crimson color. Seriously heady! Exotic and mature on the nose but not on the palate. Masses of concentration and allure but, although it would give pleasure, it would clearly be sensible to keep it for quite a few more years. Lovely combination of fruit and freshness. Really vivacious. Sweet and rigorous. 14% alc. • Drink 2020-2040



## Rouge 2007

Mid garnet. Pale rim. Paler than the 2006. Light, tea-leaf nose. Sweet start. Dry and powdery finish. Very unformed. I could easily enjoy this with Greek/Lebanese mezze – in fact these flavours strongly remind me of dolmades – but ideally with all these fine tannins I would continue to cellar this vintage. Quite long. 14% alc. • Drink 2025-2042



## Rouge 2008

Bright crimson. Heady and beguiling with a gamey note on the nose. Very sweet and young and well balanced on the palate. No hurry at all to drink this youthful ferment. Very tight, dry wine that is so much younger than any other vintage tasted. SO much more youthful than a bordeaux 2008! 14% alc. • Drink 2025-2045



## Rouge 2009

Released in spring 2016. Mid crimson. Light, sweet start. For the moment it's a little simple. Bright, ripe red fruit. Slightly burnt edge. Lots of tannins. Quite dry and youthful on the finish. Much longer bottle age needed. By far the most youthful wine in this vertical. 14% alc. • Drink 2028-2050



## Rouge 2010

Bright ruby. Heady, rich and gamey aromas. Very hedonistic and accessible on the nose with real density and lifted gaminess. An attractive singed character on top of very ripe fruit. Great balance and freshness (but not excessive acidity) on the finish. Very neat on the end. Wild and gitanic. Already accessible, but will develop even more complex tertiary aromas. 13.5% alc. • Drink 2018-2028



## Rouge 2011

Fairly deep ruby. A denser, more concentrated, linear nose than the 2010 served alongside. A certain dustiness of aroma. This seems more obviously Cabernet than most Musar reds. Still quite youthful. Falls away a little on the end. Well judged but less distinctive and less obviously Lebanese than some vintages. Decent balance. Certainly not over the top. 14% alc. • Drink 2020-2034

