

Chateau Musar Red 1964

Overview

Following three years of study under Emile Peynaud and Jean Riberau-Gayon, Serge graduated from the University of Bordeaux with a degree in Oenology. He had been working *stages* at Ronald Barton's Château Langoa-Barton in Saint Julien, which would influence his winemaking style in the following years:

I had been in Bordeaux. I was 25, mature. I prefer not to qualify the attitude of the French towards me, but no-one hurt me: they respected my degree. However, I never took them a wine of my own. I was pretentious, my way! Was it as a reaction to this? I don't know, but '64 was my wild wine – Serge Hochar

Grape Varietals

Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault, Carignan

Winemaking

Prior to 1964, Serge had not used any sulphur on his wines, but found that a very small amount ($\leq 10\text{mg/L}$) was required to protect the wines and ensure they remained stable during the long ageing process.

Tasting Notes

From an extraordinary vintage, this remarkable wine is still going as strong as ever. As deep, rich and concentrated today as it was in its youth and still showing tantalising ripeness. Scarlet in colour with terracotta tones at the rim, it has a complex nose of cigar box spice, warm leather, baked fruits, ripe morello cherries and blackcurrants. Medium to full-bodied, really silky with a great mouth feel, lively and really rich on the palate, extremely drinkable with sweet, ripe tannins. The palate has intense flavours of dark chocolate, red cherries, olives, figs, and velvet smooth tannins on the very long finish, lingering sweet red fruits and spices in the aftertaste.

Fruity, rich, tannic and textured, with a classic Bordeaux bouquet of black currants and cedarwood and a flavour intensity that I normally associate with Chateau Latour or Chateau Mouton Rothschild in exceptional vintages – Terry Robards, The New York Times, April 1981

The 1964, at an age when all but the best Bordeaux are fading, was in the same mould as 1970, with a deep mahogany colour and dense, floral fruit. This is the preferred wine of M. Hochar, which he describes as "my wild wine" – Steven Spurrier, The Field, December 1984

Labelled 'Reserve Rouge', first tasted in August, then in December 1979: nose like Turkish delight, delicious flavour. Four notes in the 1980s: impressive, Bordeaux-style, fleshy, though two 'off' bottles. Not tasted since Sept 1986 – Michael Broadbent

An excellent vintage and a wine so well balanced that only now is it beginning to go down. Despite minor losses, the wine remains elegant and stylish and has flavours (especially of Mediterranean herbs) that linger nicely. Drink now or in the near future – Daniel Rogov, March 2001

Terracotta colour, turning brick at the rim. Aroma of forest floor, mushroom and chestnut husk. The palate is round and delicious, leather, tobacco, savoury, liquorice with notes of dark honey on the finish. Very nice wine – Association of European Sommeliers, October 2016

Mature rim but not for its age: still tons of vibrant life in the redness of the wine. Very little sign of ageing. Nose is very big, more like a mature Châteauneuf-du-Pape or other big, structured Rhône wine. Very concentrated and deep with autumnal bonfire ash. Spectacularly good, huge on the palate: damp decaying leaves; great acidity; volatility balanced by brown sugar flavours; delicious, sweet, long on the finish. Hardly any age. A great classic wine – Bartholomew Broadbent, October 2019

Alcohol

14% Alc./Vol.

