

Chateau Musar Red 1972

Overview

One of the greatest years. I don't recall why, exactly...I discovered the future of Chateau Musar and its formula. Clive Coates of the Wine Society said our 1970 was very good. But I think the '72 became better. Was this result of gambling or a guessing game? Who can say?... – Serge Hochar

Grape Varietals

Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault, Merlot, Carignan

Winemaking

Separate varietal fermentation's in concrete vats. Racked in to French Nevers oak 225L barrels and aged for 12 months.

Tasting Notes

In its youth, this had a beautiful and harmonious aromatic intensity. A boldness and generous character that won over many, including Serge himself, often citing it as one of his favourite vintages. Layers of flavour shoehorned into a complex package that balanced the silken texture and spiced fruit with acidity and elegance.

As it matured and the colour lightened towards garnet and ultimately hints of orange, these characters further integrated to give an intoxicating combination of floral aromas and soft red fruits, to more tertiary notes of leather and coffee, desiccated fruit and forest floor.

The 1972 was fully mature, with a warm spicy sweetness, more Chateauneuf-du-Pape in style, 1972 being less of a cabernet year than 1977. M. Hochar was very pleased, saying it had been showing better, plus plein, here and in New York than in Beirut – Steven Spurrier, Field Magazine, December 1984

In 1979, Serge told me that his red wine was made with a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault, Merlot and Carignan. Already fairly mature, ripe, fullish (13.2% alcohol), reminding me of a South African Cape or soft Coonawarra red. Four notes in the late 1970s to mid-1980s, including a rich, earthy bottle at my daughter Emma's confirmation lunch, and in 1987, in the US with Le Tournedos de Bison, of course! A splendid combination. Most recently, attractively coloured, very sweet on the palate, lovely flavour, good length, complete. Last tasted pre-sale at Christie's, April 2000 – Michael Broadbent

This was the wine Serge chose for his last hours. Multi-dimensional, meaty-minty scents, then a flavour of perfect ripeness and expressiveness, soft yet lively. The mint returns, stealthily, under a hum of tobacco. It's still full of lingering, silky concentration; it fades sweetly. Utterly charming, yet finally profound – Andrew Jefford, December 4, 2013

Deep coloured. Tarry, herby spicy nose. Quite warm, spicy rounded palate which is full, soft and rich. Nicely savoury with lots of character. Very good/excellent – Jamie Goode, Musarathon, Summer 2003

Bricked medium dark red violet colour; aromatic, ginger cake, black cherry, black forest cake, cherry liqueur, dried fig, caramel syrup nose; rich, delicious, hedonistic, caramel syrup, cherry syrup, dried cherry, raspberry syrup, fig puree palate with balancing acidity; long finish – Richard Jennings, March 2016

A legendary vintage, still with amazing depth. Fully mature, browning orange rim but obviously still tons of fruit. Massive unique nose. Smells of old wood and sweet fruit. Totally evolved and mature but not really showing signs of ageing. Age, yes, over-maturity not at all. Fascinating, barnyard, old gumbots. Apricot. Very big. Seems higher than the stated 13.5% alcohol. Very long, very intense, full flavour. Silky texture. Very alcoholic finish. Past it's prime but still worthy of its reputation and stature – Bartholomew Broadbent, October 2019

Alcohol

13.5% Alc./Vol.

