

Chateau Musar Red 1979

Overview

A very dry and mild year producing a classic, easy-going style of Musar...

If I say this wine is easy, it does not mean it is necessarily simple. When you want to describe a wine you can use one word; I prefer to use a billion. Easy is a character. This wine does not jump on you, demand of you, hurt you. Easy does not mean it has no cunning, no power. But drink – It eases itself into you. Do not be deceived by this wine; just because it starts quiet, it does not stop it from becoming so many things. Most of all, it makes you feel good about yourself – Serge Hochar

Grape Varietals

Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault, Carignan

Winemaking

Natural yeast fermentation of the three grape varietals in cement vats. Aged for twelve months in French oak. Roughly equal parts are blended together and bottled without fining or filtration three years after the vintage. Bottles are matured in the winery's cellars for an additional four years. Released in 1986.

Tasting Notes

Quite deep colour showing some maturity. A richer and more concentrated version of the 1980, initially quite tannic but acidity fine and soft. Full, ripe and complex - this wine has a lot of depth with a long warm finish.

...misleadingly pale, fully mature; nose like squashed strawberries; sweet, long, delicious – Michael Broadbent, April 2000

As if to demonstrate the longevity of the pre-1985 Musar wines, this still fruity and deep purple wine maintains its charm – Daniel Rogov, March 2001

A fuller body than most vintages with very hot alcohol character – Chris Giroux, Canadian Tasting March 2001.

Sly, slightly medicinal nose with high acid and a roasted character. The palate is midweight and spicy with some undergrowth character – Jamie Goode, Musarathon, Summer 2003

Silky and pretty with dried berries and hints of cedar and flowers. The palate was medium-bodied with fine, silky tannins and a juicy finish. Fresh tobacco and wet soil – James Suckling, May 2015

Now really mature, fragrant and mellow, but the trademark savoury-spicy Musar profile remains strikingly vivid. A lovely old bottle and a rare treat – Wine Society, November 2016

Vibrant red with a hint of mahogany but still red on the rim. Astoundingly young and vigorous with warm red summer fruits and a definite hint of roses on the nose; has the feel of a wine at least 20 years its junior. The sweetness of fruit continues on the palate with a backbone of tannin to firm it up, without losing the old-fashioned 'Burgundian' richness and just the right level of acidity to refresh the palate for another glass. This must always have been an exceptional wine, as it remains today – Jancis Robinson, March 2018

Silky, pretty and gamey with dried berries and hints of cedar and flowers. A classic bottle! The palate was medium-bodied, bloody and with fine, smooth tannins and a really surprisingly juicy finish. Fresh tobacco and damp soil. Delicious! – World Wine Consultants, January 2020

Alcohol

14% Alc./Vol.

