

Chateau Musar Red 1980

Overview

A very rainy and cold winter with double the average rainfall – badly needed after a dry and mild 1979. Spring and summer were quite fresh and thankfully no prolonged hot weather, as it would have led to a bad maturation. Grapes would usually be ripe around 7th September, however this year picking started one week later. The resulting crop was smaller than expected, with low sugar content (12-13%) but acidity levels were good (4.5 g/L) as were PH levels.

Grape Varietals

Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault, Carignan

Winemaking

The grapes harvested were clean and healthy; fermentation began easily and was completed without any problems. The wines were fine and elegant and those destined for the unoaked, young release Musar Cuvée were ready for drinking immediately.

Components for the grand vin were aged for 12 months in French oak before blending and bottling. Released in 1987.

Tasting Notes

Upon release, this was clearly a delicate vintage, developing much more character than we would have first thought. A lighter than average style with a rich ruby colour. Very fresh and clean with a lovely tobacco nose. The palate developed into an elegant character and ended with a warm, mellow finish.

This is darker and denser than some of the other wines from the 1980s with typical leaf and cedar scents. It tastes more of Cabernet Sauvignon than most. At nearly 40 years after the vintage, the wine is showing great balance, opening up in the glass and revealing more depth as time passes.

The 1980 is developing just as I imagined it would and already resembles a classic heavyweight claret, with a huge cabernet nose and massive concentration in the mouth. It seems sweeter than the '81 with none of the cinsault-Red Cross characteristics of young Musar. It is already a seriously good wine with many years ahead of it – Auberon Waugh, The Spectator, October 1987

Mature herby spicy nose. A bit 'old wine' on the palate with nice smooth spicy character. Smooth and mature. Very good – Jamie Goode, Musarathon, 2003

Marked bottle deposit on the shoulder. Pale rust red. Very vigorous, palate-grabbing start. This is full of life with light tannins on the end. Very impressive in many ways even if it's still quite youthful. Wonderfully impressive in every respect. This tastes as though it has a great future – Jancis Robinson, March 2018

Alcohol

14% Alc./Vol.

