

Chateau Musar Red 1989 Carignan

Overview

The 1989 is an exceptional vintage. Exceptional because with war raging around them, the Chateau Musar winery was hit on several occasions and the deep cellars used as air raid shelters, yet still wine continued to be produced. A dry winter followed by a mild summer led to an exceptional vintage, despite the surrounding troubles.

This wine is made exclusively from Carignan grapes sourced from a single vineyard in the Bekaa Valley. Produced from what Serge considered an exceptional vat of Carignan, it fully demonstrates the quality this varietal has to offer. Although all of Chateau Musar's red wines are blends, this wine was Serge's exception, his message to the world that a humble varietal could result in a truly special wine.

Grape Varietals

100% Carignan

Winemaking

Intended as component of the Chateau Musar blend and aged for 12 months in French oak, the Carignan was truly remarkable – Its transition from juice into wine was incredible and Serge identified this specific vat from one of the Carignan vineyards as unique, so in the summer of 1992 the vat was bottled as a single varietal to celebrate his 50th birthday. When looking for something to commemorate the Millennium, the 2000 bottles of this Special Cuvee was the obvious choice!

Tasting Notes

Ruby colour with a burnt orange hue. On the nose, there are notes of coffee, tobacco, cigar box and Assam tea leaves with a hint of chocolate and spices. The palate is soft and silky, with spicy red and black fruits: prunes and blackcurrants, surrounded by chocolate and mocha with a sweet/savoury spice finish. Dense and rich with harmonious acidity providing clarity and cut to the rich, ripe red fruit flavour.

1989 Labelled 'For the Millennium 2000', single-vineyard, predominantly Carignan, not the usual blend. Good colour, sweet, full, rich and uplifting flavour. First tasted at Chateau Musar in 1999. Last tasted pre-sale at Christie's, April 2000. Michael Broadbent

Tall bottle. Like its white counterpart, this was 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. Could do with a little bit more fruit and purity but I like the maturity. Jancis Robinson, March 2018

Alcohol

14% Alc./Vol.

1989



Chateau Musar



CARIGNAN BY
SERGE HOCHAR

Bottle No. / 1989

