

Chateau Musar Red 1990



Overview

1990 marked the end of 15 years of civil unrest in Lebanon, though after such a protracted period of trouble, problems persisted until the very end and even into 1991 when the amnesty law was finally passed.

The Winter was mild with very little rain and below average snow on the mountains, which was followed by one of the coolest summers to date. Early flowering would usually result in early ripening and harvest, though this was not the case; picking started on 12th September and the majority was completed by the 27th.

Fighting occurring along the usual transport route from vineyards in the Bekaa, to the Winery in Ghazir meant the lorries of grapes were forced to travel north and over the mountains near Bcharre, a 7-hour journey, narrowly missing the blockade that was to follow on the 28th September. This would have put an end to all chances of producing the 1990 vintage, however only one late-ripening vineyard was missed as a result of the blockade.

Grape Varietals

Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault, Carignan

Winemaking

Natural yeast fermentation of the three grape varietals progressed as normal with the usual maceration period resulting in wines with a good balance of fruit, tannin and acidity, but lower alcohol levels due to the cool summer. The wines were raked after 6 months, aged in French oak for a year before the assemblage and bottling in 1993.

Tasting Notes

A vintage in which the harvest occurred early due to the war. Green pepper, mint and red cabbage on the nose. A lighter style and not as generous as the other wines from the 1990's. You can tell something's is different here but by no means is it flawed - Michael Schachner, The Wine Enthusiast October 2000

Mahogany-red, tawny rim, has clarity but definite maturity; bottle at mid-shoulder level. Attractively concentrated red fruits, dry roses and even a rose-hip sweetness on the nose which continues expressively onto the palate giving rich/dry flavours due to inherent acidity which adds length. Perhaps just passing its best, while the sense of vineyard is still very much there - Steven Spurrier, October 2019

Alcohol

13.5% Alc./Vol.