



Chateau Musar

2015 ROUGE

MOUNT LEBANON * BEKAA VALLEY, LEBANON



Chateau Musar was founded in 1930 by Gaston Hochar. In 1959, after studying oenology at the University of Bordeaux, his son Serge became winemaker. The civil war that tore Lebanon apart from 1975 to 1990 did not defeat Chateau Musar; Serge refused to abandon the wine, and lost only the 1976 and 1984 vintages to the war. Owing to his inspiring determination and grand passion for his wines, Serge received the inaugural “Man of the Year Award” from Decanter magazine in 1984.

VITICULTURE/VINIFICATION

Musar deemed 2015 as one of the most challenging vintages in a generation. There was a good start to the year with plenty of rain and snow, followed by rising temperatures toward the end of March. Night-time temperatures fell to between -8°C (17.6°F) and -12°C (10.4°F), which destroyed buds that had started to open. By early May, luckily green shoots emerged from the stems of the vines. A humid June and mild July were followed by rising temperatures and a heatwave into September which resulted in further losses in the vineyards by the time it came to harvest. Cabernet Sauvignon was picked with 65% losses to the crop; Cinsault with losses of 70% in the vineyards of Aana and 40% in the vineyards of Kefraya. Finally, Carignan was 50% down. Each varietal was fermented with natural yeasts in concrete vats, then aged for 12 months in French oak barrels. The wine was blended in January 2018 and bottled in July/August of that year.

TASTING NOTES

Deep ruby in color and has an aroma of fresh hedgerow berries - bramble, blackcurrant and cherry, also more complexity coming through later with leather and delicate, peppery-spice notes. Notes of soft vanilla, warming spice and cocoa. Fresh acidity and supple tannins make the wine a perfect accompaniment to richer, fattier meats like duck or a ribeye steak.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION

VARIETALS:	Cinsault, Carignan and Cabernet Sauvignon
ALC:	14%
TOTAL ACIDITY:	2.1 g/L
TOTAL SULPHUR:	71 mg/L
PH:	3.46
RS:	4.4 g/L

