

Ixsir

Ixsir El Ixsir 2019 is a commanding Lebanese red, marrying mountain-born freshness with dark-fruited depth, polished tannins and finely judged oak for a poised, age-worthy expression of the estate's flagship vision.

El Ixsir 2019

Bekaa Valley, Lebanon



Region and Vineyards

Ixsir is based in Batroun, while its wines draw on vineyards planted across **Lebanon's high mountain landscapes**. El Ixsir is the estate's flagship red, shaped by elevated terroirs whose cooler conditions help **preserve acidity and aromatic definition** as the grapes ripen under abundant Mediterranean light. This interplay gives the wine its characteristic balance: generous fruit and savory depth held in focus by freshness.

The vineyards associated with the 2019 wine are rooted in **ferric clay and limestone**, soils that favor structure rather than simple opulence. Across Ixsir's wider high-altitude network, sites include Ainata at 1,800 metres, Yamoune at 1,375 metres and Hadath Baalbek at 1,180 metres. Such elevations are central to the producer's identity, helping its wines unite Lebanese warmth with clarity, fine tension and an energetic profile.

Winemaking

The 2019 El Ixsir brings together **Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot**. Syrah supplies spice, dark fruit and aromatic lift; Cabernet Sauvignon adds cassis, structure and persistence; Merlot rounds the blend with plum-toned flesh and a smoother mid-palate. The varieties are assembled to create depth without losing the freshness that defines Ixsir's mountain-grown style.

Following vinification, the wine matured for **24 months in French oak barrels**, a prolonged élevage that builds texture and integrates its ripe tannins. Oak forms part of the wine's architecture, bringing cedar, vanilla, toast and savory spice around a concentrated core of black and red fruit. The finished wine has 14.5% alcohol, yet bright acidity and mentholated lift keep the palate poised. The result is **dense, polished and built to evolve**, with sufficient suppleness for enjoyment after decanting.

Alcohol :14,50 %

Composition: 55% Syrah, 35% Cabernet Sauvignon, 10% Merlot

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Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby with garnet reflections and the first subtle signs of evolution at the rim.
- **Aroma:** Concentrated blackcurrant, blackberry, ripe plum and cherry emerge alongside licorice, dried herbs and garrigue. Notes of menthol, cedar, tobacco, vanilla and savory spice add complexity.
- **Palate:** Dense and carefully structured, with mature dark fruit, velvety tannins and well-integrated oak. Juicy acidity provides energy and definition, carrying cassis, plum, mild spice and tobacco into a long, fresh finish.

Did You Know?

Ixsir's winery is located in Batroun, but the estate's vineyard network reaches into Lebanon's dramatic mountain landscapes. Some sites rise to **1,800 metres above sea level**, making elevation a defining element of the producer's identity and the freshness of its wines.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Slow-braised lamb shoulder:** The wine's dark fruit, firm structure and savory spice complement the lamb's richness, while its acidity refreshes the palate.
- **Chargrilled rib-eye steak:** Ripe tannins and concentrated cassis stand up to deeply flavored beef, with cedar and tobacco echoing the smoky crust.
- **Duck breast with plum sauce:** The Merlot-led suppleness and ripe plum character harmonize with the sauce, while the wine's freshness balances the duck.
- **Mushroom and lentil moussaka:** Earthy mushrooms, warm spices and creamy layers draw out the wine's garrigue, tobacco and velvety texture.

90 WINEENTHUSIAST

Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 90 Points (2019)

Juicy red berries, cloves, and black pepper nuance this structured red wine with a long, tannic finish. Serve it with hearty beef or root vegetable dishes, preferably in front of a roaring fire while snow falls outside.