



# Ixsir

From Lebanon's highest vineyards, this flagship cuvée combines concentration and freshness, delivering dark fruit, spice, and remarkable balance.



Alcohol :14,00 %

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

## El Ixsir 2015

Bekaa Valley, Lebanon

### Region and Vineyards

El Ixsir draws its character from Lebanon's diverse and elevated terroirs. Grapes are sourced from sites in Batroun, Bekaa Valley, Ainata, Yamoune, and Hadath Baalbek, planted at altitudes between 400 and 1 800 metres. These are among the **highest vineyards in the Northern Hemisphere**, where marked diurnal shifts extend the ripening season, preserving acidity and aromatic vibrancy.

The soils are predominantly **limestone and clay-calcareous**, known for imparting mineral precision and freshness to the wines. These conditions allow El Ixsir to unite the ripeness of Mediterranean sunshine with the finesse of mountain viticulture. The winery, located in the hills above Batroun, was conceived to highlight Lebanon's forgotten terroirs, blending innovation with a deep respect for history.

### Winemaking

El Ixsir is crafted from **Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon, and Merlot**. In this vintage, Syrah contributes spice and suppleness, Cabernet Sauvignon delivers structure and cassis-driven power, while Merlot brings roundness and polish. The proportions hover around 55 % Syrah, 35 % Cabernet Sauvignon, and 10 % Merlot.

The wine matured for **24 months in French oak barrels**, equally divided between new and second-use casks. This long élevage enriched the texture and layered complexity while ensuring the fruit expression remained at the forefront. The integration of oak spice, vanilla, and cedar complements the ripe fruit core, enhancing both finesse and aging potential.

### Tasting Notes

- **Color:** Deep ruby-purple with density at the core.
- **Aroma:** Blackcurrant, blackberry, and ripe red berries interwoven with cedar, cinnamon, mint, and subtle incense. Oak adds a touch of vanilla and sweet spice.
- **Palate:** Full-bodied, suave, and mineral-driven, with polished tannins supporting a rich black fruit core. Fresh acidity underpins a **long, precise finish** marked by spice and graphite nuances.



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## El Ixsir 2015

### Did you know?

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The name "Ixsir" is derived from the Arabic "**lksir**", meaning *elixir*. It reflects the estate's mission to capture the purest essence of Lebanon's terroir. The winery itself has won awards for its sustainable and architectural design, symbolising the blend of tradition and modernity that defines El Ixsir.

### Wine Pairing Ideas

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- **Pepper-crusted rib-eye** - the wine's tannic structure and spice harmonise with grilled red meat.
- **Lamb tagine with prunes** - its fruit and incense-like notes echo the dish's savory-sweet character.
- **Grilled eggplant with herbed labneh** - mineral freshness balances creaminess and smoky tones.
- **Aged Manchego** - nutty intensity pairs seamlessly with the wine's cedar and dark fruit depth.



#### Robert Parker (RP) : **91 Points** (2015)

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*The 2015 EL red is mostly a 55/35 blend of Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon with 10% Merlot aged for 24 months in an equal mixture of new and used French oak. It comes in at 14.7% alcohol. This, the latest release in our trilogy this issue, is a shock to the system. It handles the oak well, relatively speaking, but it is so much more primary in its fruit development that it just seems radically different. I suspect it isn't that radically different—that, when it comes around, there will be more complexity here and a more sensual feel, as with its siblings. For the moment, let's start here. Although it seems approachable in terms of its moderate tannins, this does need a few years to show all it has to show. For the moment, while this is very well done, it seems far behind the 2011.*



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