

Ixsir

Grande Réserve Red is a masterful expression of Lebanese terroir, combining concentration and finesse in a wine that lingers with remarkable depth and elegance.

İXSİR



Alcohol :13,50 %

Composition: 61% Syrah, 39% Cabernet Sauvignon

Grande Reserve Red 2017

Bekaa Valley, Lebanon

Region and Vineyards

Lebanon's viticulture thrives along the Mount Lebanon and Bekaa slopes, where altitude tempers Mediterranean sunshine. Ixsir farms a mosaic of sites from **Basbina (400 m)** near Batroun on clay-limestone to **Bechouat/Deir El Ahmar (1,100-1,000 m)** on ferrallitic gravelly clay-lime in the northern Bekaa. Elevation delivers marked diurnal shifts that preserve acidity and aromatic precision.

Further south and east, plots such as **Jezzine (950 m)** and **Ainata (1,800 m)**—one of the highest vineyards in the Northern Hemisphere—add freshness, spice, and intensity to the fruit profile. The diversity of soils (shell limestone with clay; calcareous clays; marl-calcareous) and exposures underpins the wine's layered complexity.

Winemaking

Grande Reserve Red 2017 is a blend of **Syrah (61%)** and **Cabernet Sauvignon (39%)**, sourced from selected high-altitude parcels across the estate's network of vineyards. The final composition leans into Syrah's dark-fruited spice while Cabernet contributes structure and graphite-tinged lift.

Maturation lasts **12 months in French oak** with a restrained regime—**15% new**, **35% one-wine**, **50% two-wines**—to frame, not mask, the fruit. This élevage polishes tannins and layers subtle cedar and cocoa while preserving the mountain-fresh core. (ABV typically around **14%**.)

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep ruby with purple highlights; youthful concentration and clarity.
- **Aroma**: Blackberries, black cherry and blueberry interlace with cedar, cigar-box spice, dried thyme and a whisper of smoked meat.
- **Palate**: Full-bodied yet balanced by altitude-driven freshness; fine-grained tannins, dark fruit and cocoa glide through a long, savory finish with echoes of garrigue and graphite. Decant 45-60 minutes.

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Did you know?

Ixsir's gravity-fed winery is built beneath a restored **17th-century** Lebanese house and has earned multiple sustainability and design accolades—CNN even cited it among the world's "greenest" buildings—while the estate's **Ainata** plot at **1,800 m** is among the highest vineyards in the Northern Hemisphere.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Grilled lamb shoulder with rosemary** — the wine's dark fruit and savory herb notes harmonize with charred, aromatic lamb.
- **Beef ribeye with peppercorn jus** — ample body and tannin meet marbled richness; peppercorn mirrors Syrah's spice.
- **Mushroom and lentil moussaka** — earthy umami and béchamel weight are lifted by the wine's freshness and gentle oak.
- **Aged Comté** — nutty, caramelized flavors resonate with cedar, cocoa and the wine's long finish.

Robert Parker (RP) : 90 Points (2012)

The 2012 Grande Reserve is a 60/40 blend of Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon, aged for 12 months in a 60/40 mixture of new and second use French oak. It comes in at 13.5% alcohol. Livelier and fresher than the 2011, this is a more precise wine, although it lacks the mouth-coating richness of the 2011. The flavors are a bit more youthful, and the fruit has a little more lift to it. Of course, it is tinged with that Syrah beefiness. I'm wondering now if this will evolve as the 2011 did, settling down, putting on a little weight and becoming more impressive. It just might. Certainly, the 2011 shows better right now.