Chateau Musar

Château Musar 2018 is a captivating blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault, and Carignan , crafted to showcase the unique terroir of Lebanon's Bekaa Valley . This vintage tells the story of an extraordinary growing season and Château Musar's meticulous winemaking tradition.

Chateau Musar

95 WineEnthusiast

Musar 2018

Bekaa Valley, Lebanon

Region and Vineyards

The **Bekaa Valley**, nestled between Mount Lebanon and the Anti-Lebanon mountain ranges, is one of the world's most historic wine regions. Its high-altitude vineyards, situated at **1,000 meters**, provide the perfect environment for the production of balanced and aromatic wines, thanks to **hot days and cool nights** that preserve the natural acidity and develop complex flavors in the grapes.

The 2018 growing season was marked by **unpredictable weather**, starting with abundant rainfall and snow in January and February, replenishing the soil. A warm and sunny April accelerated vine growth, followed by **well-timed rains during May and June**, which benefited the blooming period. However, the season was not without its challenges, including a three-day heatwave in August with temperatures reaching **40 ° C**, which resulted in a unique concentration of sugar in the **Cinsault** grapes, a phenomenon rarely seen.

Winemaking

This vintage is an **equal blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault, and Carignan**, each contributing distinct characteristics to the wine. Fermentation was carried out with **natural yeasts in concrete vats**, ensuring an authentic expression of the fruit. The wine was aged for **12 months in French Nevers oak barrels**, which added layers of complexity and structure.

The fermentation process for **Cinsault and Carignan** required careful monitoring due to the delicate nature of the vintage, with malolactic fermentation taking longer than usual to complete. Bottled without fining or filtration during the summer of 2021, **Musar 2018** retains its purity and natural texture, reflecting the winery's commitment to minimal intervention.

Alcohol :14,00 %

Composition: 40% Cabernet Sauvignon, 30% Cinsault, 30% Carignan

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Musar 2018

Tasting Notes

- **Color**: Deep garnet, rich and inviting.
- **Aroma**: Aromas of **dried cherries**, **mature red fruits**, and **smoky, dusty notes** with a hint of **soft licorice**.
- **Palate**: A rich and concentrated profile featuring **cranberries**, **raisins**, and **dates**, balanced by refreshing acidity and fine tannins. The wine's smoky undertones and subtle spice add layers of complexity, leading to a long and elegant finish.

Did You Know?

Château Musar's vineyards are planted with **indigenous and ancient varietals**, including Cinsault, which has been cultivated in the region for centuries. The winery's philosophy emphasizes organic practices and natural fermentation, ensuring every bottle is a true expression of the Bekaa Valley's heritage.

Wine Pairing Ideas

- **Roast lamb with garlic and rosemary**: The wine's rich fruit and fine tannins complement the savory and herbal flavors of lamb.
- **Duck confit with cherry reduction**: The dried cherry notes in the wine echo the fruitiness of the dish, enhancing its depth.
- **Moussaka**: The smoky and earthy elements of the wine pair beautifully with the rich layers of eggplant and spiced meat.
- **Aged Gruyère or Comté cheese**: The wine's complex palate balances the nutty, savory characteristics of these cheeses.

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Wine Enthusiast (WE) : 95 Points (2018)

Fresh and dried cherries, just-picked raspberries, figs and juicy dates headline this impeccably balanced, garnet-hued blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault, Carignan from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. Drink it now or in several years; either way, you'll be glad you did.

90 vinous

Vinous (Antonio Galloni) (VN) : 90 Points (2017)

The 2017 Château Musar has a perfumed bouquet with well-defined plummy red fruit, fireside embers and pressed flower scents. A hint of VA in the background gives the aromatics a welcome kick. The palate is medium-bodied with fine tannins and well-judged acidity, harmonious, not powerful, yet full of flavor. A pleasing bitterness surfaces towards the finish, with moderate persistence and a residual white pepper tang lingering in the mouth. Very nice. (NM)