

WHITEWATER VALLEY WINE SOCIETY
December 2023 Tasting
The Wines of Chateau Musar, Lebanon
With Jane Sowter

Many of our members need no introduction to the Lebanese wines of Chateau Musar. Others will probably have heard of Musar, but perhaps never been given to chance experienced its delight. But whether we are regular fans or newcomers, we should all be in awe of the challenge that this wine is to make and of its cult status amongst wine connoisseurs. The Hochar family have overseen the production of Musar in Lebanon for several generations. Year in, year out, they consistently make this world famous wine, despite the political distractions and conflict, literally in their back yard.

The pleasure of marketing Chateau Musar throughout Europe is a task keenly undertaken by this month's presenter, UK Managing Director Jane Sowter. She works tirelessly to help make sure that the Musar wines reach our shelves in the UK and frequently presents the wines to full houses throughout the UK. Our tasting of the wines of Chateau Musar was indeed an interesting and rare experience. We tasted wines from across the Musar portfolio, including some older vintages no longer readily available. It was a great way for our Society to celebrate Christmas!

- **Musar Jeune White 2021** - £15.40. An unoaked blend of Viognier, Vermentino and Chardonnay from Bekaa Valley vines
- **Musar Jeune Rosé 2021** - £15.40. A dry, lighter coloured, serious rosé, best with food.
- **Musar Jeune Red 2020** - £15.40. A delightful blend of Cinsault, Syrah and Cabernet Sauvignon likened to a Roussillon red.
- **Hochar Red 2019** - £28.00. A blend of Cinsault, Grenache and Cabernet Sauvignon from the village of Aana in the Bekaa Valley from 30 year old vines. Great ageing potential and reminiscent of Chateauneuf du-Pape in complexity.
- **Chateau Musar Red 2017** - £45.00. A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Cinsault and Carignan. A wine that is approachable now but will benefit from further ageing.....up to 20 years.
- **Chateau Musar Red 2010** - £51.98. An elegant vintage - savoury, herby with delicate spices, fresh acidity and a long dry finish.
- **Chateau Musar White 2010** - £28.99. a blend of two indigenous grapes Obaideh and Merwah from the cool climate elevations of the slopes of Mount Lebanon. This wine will keep for decades!

The prices above were those made available to members on the night and are not regular retail prices.