

Domaine des Tourelles Red



Producer: Domaine des Tourelles
Winemaker: Mr. Faouzi Issa
Country of Origin: Lebanon
Region of Origin: Bekaa
Grapes: Cabernet Sauvignon 40%, Syrah 40%, Cinsault 15%
ABV: 13.5%
Case Size: 6x75cl
Vintage: 2013
Suitable For: Vegetarians and Vegans
Closure Type: Cork



The One-Liner

A hugely characterful, high altitude red from one of the founding Lebanese wineries.

Tasting Note

A traditional blend. Deep ruby red with fantastically expressive aromas of cherries, cedar wood, cracked black pepper, rosemary and cloves. A savoury and herby palate with Morello cherry flavours and fine tannins. A wine packed with flavour and heritage.

Producer Details

DOMAINE DES TOURELLES is one of the longest established and most highly acclaimed wineries in the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon. Founded in 1868 by French adventurer François-Eugène Brun, Domaine de Tourelles was the **first commercial cellar in Lebanon producing wines**, arak and other spirits. In 2000, the estate was bought by descendants of Brun's Lebanese wife, Nayla Kanaan Issa-el-Khoury and Elie F. Issa. It is run by their children, Faouzi Issa (winemaker), Christaine Issa and Emile Issa-el Khoury. This young and dynamic trio have decided to proudly **apply similar artisan winemaking skills and traditions to their handcrafted wines** – this includes minimum intervention in the vineyards and cellar, use of indigenous natural yeasts, no fining or filtering, and only very small amounts of sulphur. The winery boasts intelligent ancestral architectural design that keeps the ideal ambient temperature all year round, and concrete vats (a rarity in Lebanon) that provide the best biological conditions for natural winemaking processes – preserving the authentic taste of Lebanon's terroir.

Faouzi Issa, graduated with winemaking and viticultural degrees from Bordeaux and Montpellier Universities. He then trained with René Rostaing in Cote Rôtie and at Chateau Margaux before moving back to the, by now, family winery at Domaine des Tourelles. Faouzi has secured the future of this noble estate by introducing "*a few modernities here and there...*" but is adamant their ancient vineyards continue to be the expression and philosophy of the estate and is proud of the winery's strong francophile links.

"The most seductive winery"
Financial Times

Domaine des Tourelles – a prestigious and traditional property classified amongst the finest boutique wineries of the Middle East.

VIDEO: Summer Breeze at Domaine des Tourelles

In The Vineyard

Food Recommendations

100% manually harvested.

Perfect with rich, lamb casseroles or a spicy chickpea harissa stew.

In The Winery

A blend of Cabernet Sauvignon (40%), Syrah (40%), Cinsault (15%) and Carignan (5%). Traditional vinification in concrete vats, after 10 days fermentation the wine is blended and then aged in concrete vats for 16 months.

Awards & Press

2013 Vintage: Sommelier Wine Awards 2016 - Bronze

2011 Vintage: "Claiming to be Lebanon's oldest commercial estate, Domaine de Tourelles was founded by a Frenchman whose grandson made it famous in the 1960s with the production of arak (the anise-based spirit). This Cabernet Sauvignon, blended with Syrah and Cinsault, is much more seductive - and not just because of the price. The palate has silky tannins with vibrant red and black cherry fruit and spice characters and a lovely purity on the finish. It's crying out for roast leg of lamb. Drink 2015 - 2018".

2010 Vintage: "Plucky is the adjective that tends to describe Lebanese winemakers, working as they do in conditions that can be challenging for reasons other than the weather. But there's more to the wines than the tale of their production. There's real flair, for example, in this blend of Syrah, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cinsault from the country's oldest commercial winery, Domaine des Tourelles. Like many reds with French influence, it's pitched in style between Bordeaux and the Rhône, with a bright cherry character and gently gripping tannins." David Williams, The Observer, September 2013

2010 Vintage: "Sparkling cherry colour. Warm notes, black cherry, liquorice, tobacco. Grippy little number, with good balance, long finish and a good price." Judges Comments, The Wine Merchant 'Top 50' 2013

2010 Vintage: "With violets on the nose alongside plums, berries and notes of oak, this is supple, juicy and balanced, with liquorice and spice alongside firm tannins, dried plum and hints of milk chocolate. Good with food." Sommelier Wine Awards 2013, Judges Comments;