



✦ Skyfall & the Wonderful Role of Nature in Our Wines ✦

Beautiful rain this year and lots of snow on Mount Lebanon; these are exciting times. We've had well above average rain and the quality of the snow has kept the ski slopes busy. There's the same buzz at Massaya Faqra restaurants and Boutique.

Of course, at Massaya it's not all about great food in warm and cozy surroundings. We've been out pruning the vineyards in the Beqaa and preparing to plant new vines as well as grafting rootstocks planted two years ago.

The rainfall and snow are positive signs at this time of year. They're good for the vines and for the morale of the Massaya team. In the years when rain is scarce, we tend to worry and wonder if perhaps desertification is materializing. We tend to forget that temperature changes are gradual and unpredictable so this winter the fear of becoming like the rest of the region has not been on our minds. It's too early to say what will

be the impact of the rain on grapes and the harvest but it is all looking positive.

And as good news seldom comes on its own, we can celebrate finally having a government in Lebanon. After eight months the political stars aligned between the local leaders, the regional powers and the super powers to give birth to a cabinet. At last we can say that we look like any other country with a government and a president. For most nations that's a natural situation; for us it's not so not common. All we need now is favorable weather as we prepare the vineyards.

This is the key period for pruning and grafting, we've been pleased to welcome our partner Frederic Brunier who came from Chateauneuf du Pape to give valuable advice. There are few people with the experience that Frederic has accumulated in terms of vineyard development and maintenance. What's more, with younger members of the Brunier family joining after studying viticulture and winemaking, our partners at Vieux Télégraphe are updating some of their techniques.

[Read More](#)

✦ Life at Massaya ✦



Get more from your ski pass at Massaya Faqra!

Throughout the month of **February**, we are offering ski pass holders a **20**



A groovy night at Massaya Faqra!

Come and hear the Three Town Jazz Trio playing at the Fireplace restaurant on **Saturday March 2.**

percent discount on food and drinks in our restaurants .

This offer is valid on **Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays** from **1:30 PM to 6:00 PM** and includes our specials.

For more details, click [here](#)

Take the trail to Massaya for a special skiers deal!

The food will be served in a delicious Massaya buffet.

For more details about the menu, [click here](#).

Jazz lovers will enjoy the buffet, served from **8 to 9:30 PM**. After 9:30 the regular menu a la carte will be served at the **Fireplace**.

The action's at the Fireplace!

Book Now

Book Now

❖ Rosé & Blanc Wine Cycles ❖



The wines are produced usually in September and then in December when we assess the vats and decide on the blending with our French partners. This year Daniel Brunier and Dominique Hebrard were present at the December tasting. Then begins the period of waiting for the wines to settle until in February, five months after harvest, we usually bottle the Rosé and Blanc. They need to be ready to ship

to foreign countries in early spring and available on the terraces to greet the first sunrays.

For some, the release of these fresh wines is a race and they carry out all kinds of stabilization, fining and filtration to make sure the wines can make it to the shelves as early as December. At Massaya our philosophy is different; no stabilization, no fining but a natural settling in the vats at below 12 degrees followed by a gentle filtration to preserve the wines.

By limiting the manipulation, we make sure we maintain the aromas and flavor of the wines. Of course we are tempted to rush the process because even our restaurants in Faqra may run out of Blanc and Rosé wines but we are prepared to be patient and wait for the wines to settle naturally. Until they are ready, we advise everyone to keep ears and eyes open to see this shiny liquid in the glasses pleasing your senses.

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

Daily winery tours and tastings, 10:00-17:00

FIREPLACE RESTAURANT

Monday & Thursday lunch

Friday & Saturday lunch and dinner

Sunday Salad Bar & a la carte till 4:30 pm

SUNSETBAR

Open Friday, Saturday & Sunday, from 4:30 pm

THE POND GARDEN - reopens June 2019

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