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Domaine Latour-Giraud (Meursault)

2012	Bourgogne	white	(86-88)
2012	Meursault "Charmes" 1er	white	(90-92)
2012	Meursault – Cuvée Charles Maxime	white	(87-89)
2012	» Meursault "Genevrières" 1er	white	(90-93)
2012	» Meursault "Genevrières – Cuvée des Pierres" 1er	white	(91-94)
2012	Meursault "Les Narvaux"	white	(88-91)
2012	Meursault "Perrières" 1er	white	NR
2012	Meursault "Poruzots" 1er	white	(89-92)
2012	» Puligny-Montrachet "Champs Canet" 1er	white	(91-93)

Jean-Pierre Latour told me that 2012 was an "extremely tough vintage to manage given the poor flowering, hail storms and constant disease pressure that plagued us until the second half of August. The hail was particularly devastating in Meursault though thankfully the Champs Canet was less stricken. We began picking on the 17th of September and you had to pick very carefully because some parcels required major sorting and others were completely clean. I would put our net yields at about 40% of a normal harvest though at least the results are quite encouraging. I would describe the wines as very concentrated, rich and powerful yet with excellent balance. In fact they remind me a bit of 2010 but with a bit more fruit." Note that there is no Meursault "Bouchères" in 2012 due to the very tiny yields and what was harvested was included in the Cuvée Charles Maxime. (Atherton Wine Imports, www.awiwine.com, Atherton, CA, Chemin des Vins, www.chemindesvins.com, MA; Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, Thorman Hunt & Co., www.thormanhunt.co.uk, both UK).

2012 Bourgogne: (from Meursault vines). There is enough reduction present to push the fruit to the background. The ripe, round and fleshy medium-bodied flavors possess a caressing mouth feel before terminating in a saline-inflected and lingering finish. This is not super complex in the context of its level but I very much like the delivery. (86-88)/2015+

2012 Meursault – Cuvée Charles Maxime: (from the Domaine founders of Charles Giraud and Maxime Latour – the fruit derives from 5 separate *lieux-dits*; note that in both 2012, it includes the Limozin and Bouchères, both of which are usually bottled separately). This is even more markedly reduced though the wood application is evident. There is good vibrancy and volume to the delicious and exceptionally rich middle weight flavors that also display a saline character on the balanced and lingering finish. (87-89)/2017+

2012 Meursault "Les Narvaux": Here too there is enough reduction to suppress the fruit. Interestingly given the often robust nature of a typical Narvaux this possesses good refinement to the intensely mineral-driven medium weight flavors that display both excellent energy and lovely detail on the clean, dry and citrusy finish. The supporting acidity is firm but not aggressive and this should be capable of aging well. (88-91)/2018+

2012 Meursault "Poruzots": (from a small .14 ha parcel that will be bottled by hand; Latour calls this "old style *terroir*" because it usually produces a rustic wine). A smoky and mildly toasty nose of primarily white orchard fruit introduces solidly powerful and concentrated medium weight plus flavors that possess a sleek muscularity before concluding in a markedly citrus-infused and bone dry finish. This is very Poruzots in basic character which is to say that it's not elegant but it does make a statement. (89-92)/2019+

2012 Meursault "Charmes": (from 35+ year old vines in Charmes du Haut). Moderate reduction pushes the fruit to the background yet underneath the funk the fruit appears to be quite ripe. This sense of ripeness is corroborated by the suave and succulent mouth feel of the solidly concentrated and extract-rich medium-bodied flavors that exhibit a very dry yet not especially austere finish. I like the depth and persistence that is delivered with impeccably good balance in a package that should significantly benefit from 6 to 8 years of cellaring. (90-92)/2019+

2012 Meursault "Genevrières": (from 40+ year old vines from a huge 2.5 ha parcel in Genevrières Dessus). Here too the nose is markedly reduced and tough to tease out the fruit composition though again it does seem ripe. The solidly dense middle weight flavors possess excellent intensity and plenty of minerality while retaining a lovely sense of refinement allied with a sophisticated mouth feel, all wrapped in a cool, linear and well-balanced finale. This restrained effort is an exercise in harmony and this too should amply reward 6 to 8 years of bottle age. Recommended. (90-93)/2019+

2012 Meursault "Perrières": Latour indicated that this was still on its fining materials and not surprisingly the wine was troubled and impossible to judge beyond observing that it doesn't lack for concentration. I will revisit this wine from bottle next year. Not rated.

2012 Puligny-Montrachet "Champs Canet": This is also quite restrained and very cool though in this case there are no reductive aromas as the pretty nose displays notes of citrus, pear, acacia blossom and a hint of spice. The round and seductively textured medium-bodied flavors possess a highly appealing sense of underlying tension along with plenty of volume before culminating in a beautifully complex and sneaky long finish. This is a powerful yet elegant vintage for this wine that will likely require the better part of a decade to arrive at its full peak. (91-93)/2020+

2012 Meursault "Genevrières – Cuvée des Pierres": (from 50+ year old vines). Strong reduction flattens the underlying fruit to the point that it is impossible to read. This is a big wine with imposing size, weight and muscle where the underlying minerality adds lift to the explosive flavors and finish that are also supported by a citrus-inflected acid spine on the bone dry and hugely persistent finish. This is almost painfully intense yet it remains harmonious and well-balanced. This too is very much recommended provided that you have the patience to cellar it for at least 5 years as it's unlikely to drink well before that. (91-94)/2020+