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Domaine Latour-Giraud (Meursault)

2011	Meursault "Caillerets" 1er	red	(87-90)
2011	Pommard - Cuvée Carmen	red	(86-89)
2011	Pommard "La Refène" 1er	red	(88-91)
2011	Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(89-91)

Jean-Pierre Latour told me that 2011 is a "vintage that gave us exceptionally pure wines. After an up and down growing season that included a dry and hot spring with a wet and cool summer, we elected to begin picking on the 28th of August. The yields were not dissimilar to those we obtained in 2010, which is to say off about 40%. Potential alcohols were in the 12 to 12.8% range with firm but not hard acidities. What I really like about the 2011s is their aromatic purity and the clear expression of the underlying *terroir* is remarkable, indeed it is as good as 2010, which is a great compliment in my book." My take on the Latour-Giraud 2011s is that the quality of the reds is in line with the general quality of the vintage. Latour said that he would probably bottle in March. (Chemin des Vins (Patrick Lesec), Sherborn, MA, Gifted Grapes Wines Distribution, NY, NY, Fine Vines LLC, Melrose Park, IL and Country Vintner, Ashland, VA; Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, Thorman Hunt & Co., e-mail: Camille@thormanhunt.co.uk, both UK).

2011 Pommard - Cuvée Carmen: (from Les Vignots). Mild reduction knocks down the nose but there is good freshness to the agreeably tension-filled middle weight flavors that terminate in a rustic, powerful and overtly robust finish. The tannins have just enough maturity to avoid astringency and this is a classic Pommard in style. (86-89)/2018+

2011 Meursault "Caillerets": In contrast to the reductive funk of the straight Pommard, here the nose is really quite pretty with its ripe cassis, black cherry and earth suffused aromas. There is good detail and plenty of punch to the lightly mineral-inflected medium-bodied flavors that also possess a robust but not aggressive finish. I like the mouth coating sap and overall this should reward 7 to 10 years of cellar time. (87-90)/2018+

2011 Pommard "La Refène": Discreet if not invisible wood frames the notably ripe cassis and liqueur of black cherry aromas that lead to softly earthy, textured and suave medium weight flavors that possess good volume and solid complexity. There is good verve and good punch on the balanced and attractively persistent finish. While not a wine of finesse per se, this is a relatively fine Pommard. (88-91)/2018+

2011 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": Here the nose is a potent mélange of spiced plum, kirsch, earth, stone and subtle oak nuances. There is excellent mid-palate concentration to the intensely mineral-driven flavors that possess fine size and weight, all wrapped in a robust, complex, focused and impeccable well-balanced finish. This is a relatively big wine even by the standard of Clos des Chênes and it will require the better part of a decade to arrive at its full maturity. (89-91)/2019+