

JASPER MORRIS Inside | Burgundy

DOMAINE LATOUR-GIRAUD



Jean-Pierre Latour picked from 22nd August (apart from two wines, Bouchères and Champ Canet, which were picked two days earlier) through to the end of the month. He is one of the most thoughtful winemakers I have come across, thinking through every stage whether viticulture, harvesting or techniques in the cellar, and still looking to do better. This was an admirable tasting with some beautiful 2020 white wines. Jean-Pierre describes it as a vintage of precision, with details and subtlety preserved despite the sunshine.

The reds were trickier to taste, not least because of very late malolactics, unfinished in two cases and none had yet been racked at this stage. Average yields were 35 hl/ha, more on the lower slopes but much less higher up, including just 25 hl/ha in Genevrières. Degrees are between 12.8 and 13.2% in red, nearer to 13.5% in white. The whites did their malolactics in April, with some lees stirring through to mid July, before racking to tank in late August with all their lees. Jean-Pierre is expecting minimal fining this year and will bottle them as usual in the spring.

WHITE

2020, Bourgogne Chardonnay, Domaine Latour-Giraud

87-89



In Les Vaux. Fullish mid yellow, plenty of stuffing on the nose including a good feel of lees contact. This packs a real punch in a good way, with a fresh vigour to the lemon and greengage fruit, good acidity and decent length for this level. Definitely a mini-Meursault, with extra vivacity Tasted: 10/1/2021

5 STAR WINE



2020, Meursault Cuvée Charles Maxime, Domaine Latour-Giraud

91-94

This makes quite an overview of Meursault with plots in Pelles (3), Limozin, Crotots, Vireuils (2), Chevalières, Clos du Cromin and Corbins. Pale lemon and lime, this is quite light on its feet up front yet with a stunning intensity behind, with a citrus intensity of acidity as well. It will doubtless flesh out with three to five years in bottle. Very promising. Tasted: 10/1/2021

2020, Meursault Les Narvaux, Domaine Latour-Giraud

91-93



From the upper part of Les Gorges de Narvaux. Mid lemon colour, a little biscuit on the nose, wood reduction, again it is hyper-concentrated, with dense ripe lemon fruit, some acidity. A little bit harder to pull together today. Possibly less intensity than the village Meursault, though with a nice tingle behind. Very pure. Tasted: 10/1/2021

2020, Meursault Bouchères 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

92-94



Picked on Thursday 20th two days before the real harvest. Yet already the nose is almost over ripe! Promising lots of flesh behind. Terrific balance. Lots of weight, more white fruit than yellow, a little barrel toast though more at the finish and will integrate easily enough. The flesh covers most of the acidity too. Fine long aftertaste. This wine bears testimony to Jean-Pierre's intelligence and savoir faire. Tasted: 10/1/2021

5 STAR WINE

2020, Meursault Poruzots 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

93-95

From the northern end of Le Porusot under their holding of Bouchères. A lovely mix of pear and plum, very well balanced, a little bit firmer at the finish as if it had some tannins. This really fills the mouth without being in any sense over opulent, and with a fine persistent finish. Excellent potential Tasted: 10/1/2021

2020, Meursault Charmes 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

92-95



Two six ouvrée plots top and bottom. Mid yellow, the bouquet is a little softer and the oak has a vanilla touch rather than toasty. Starts reasonably quietly but kicks on with real force behind, and then finishes on the lime-citrus acidity of the vintage, suggesting a lightly salted Rose's lime juice. Fair intensity and persistence. Tasted: 10/1/2021

**2020, Meursault Genevrières 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud**

94-97

Clean pure yellow. The bouquet is over and above the Charmes. Juniper and verbena, depth and poise, concentration without heaviness. Then a pure white fruit with appropriate flesh. Not just intensity on the palate but depth of flavour as well. It is true that they are beautifully placed with their large plot of Genevrières Dessus, but even so, chapeau! Oak is present but perfectly integrated. Given the summer, I never imagined we would be able to achieve this freshness, this detail! Tasted: 10/1/2021

2020, Meursault Perrières 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

94-96



Mid lemon and very toasty on the nose. So far it seems less exciting than the Genevrières. Then the palate delivers a plump intensity (with all the freshness of the vintage) thus far unseen. Lime cordial to finish once more, and though it has the intensity, I might just give Genevrières the nod on persistence. Tasted: 10/1/2021

2020, Puligny-Montrachet Champs Canet 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

92-94



Picked early with the Bouchères. If you wait you gain sugar and lose acid very quickly in this vineyard. . Little stones keep the heat. Full lemon yellow. The bouquet is softer and riper, possibly more lactic. This is pretty punchy in the middle of the palate, but has retained its vivacity. However, you can see that to pick any later would have been a mistake. Tasted: 10/1/2021

**2020, Meursault Genevrières "Cuvée des Pierre" 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud**

95-97

Glowing full lemon colour. There is a little more barrel toast and butter here, reflecting 30% new wood instead of 25%, tried special Dany barrels which he doesn't really like, what a nose though, a glorious intensity shines through, there is even more nobility, the lime is restrained behind the white apple and pear fruit, the waves of flavour even more impressive. Will adapt fining to manage that nose. Wonderful aftertaste, the best yet in a wonderful range. Tasted: 10/1/2021

RED

2020, Pommard Cuvée Carmen , Domaine Latour-Giraud

86-88



Rich dense purple centre. Heavy and heady, dark ripe fruit. High acidity here even after malolactic, more red fruit in a rich raspberry mode. A chunky monkey and I am not sure about the balance. My rating may be severe though. Tasted: 10/1/2021

2020, Meursault Caillerets 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

91-94



If anything, an even denser crimson purple than the Pommard, Jean-Pierre Giraud has never seen colours like this. The Caillerets is rather reductive on the nose but this blows off very quickly, and the fruit becomes more joyous. There is a gorgeous opulent weight of crushed raspberry here, good acidity, tannins as they should be and amazing length. Hard to judge but I am feeling very positive. Tasted: 10/1/2021

2020, Pommard Refène 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

90-93



The malolactic fermentation has not yet been completed here. The colour is an inky black, some apples on the nose from the malolactic. Unbelievably dense to begin with though redder fruit notes behind, evidently high acid in its unfinished state, but I think this will come through very well. Benefit of the doubt. Tasted: 10/1/2021

2020, Volnay Clos des Chênes 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

90-93



The malolactic fermentation is nearly done. Black purple colour, the bouquet a little toasty and certainly a bit lactic. Robust dark raspberry fruit with a redder cherry touch as well, good acidity, a wine which is a little bit easier to read than Refène. Fairly good length, a sound bet for the long term. Tasted: 10/1/2021

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