

B U R G H O U N D . C O M[®]
THE ULTIMATE BURGUNDY REFERENCE

Domaine Latour-Giraud (Meursault)

2021	»» Bourgogne Chardonnay	white	(87-89)
2021	»» Meursault "Charmes" 1er	white	(92-94)
2021	»» Meursault – Cuvée Charles Maxime	white	(90-92)
2021	»» Meursault "Genevrières" 1er	white	(92-94)
2021	»» Meursault "Genevrières – Cuvée des Pierres" 1er	white	(93-95)
2021	»» Meursault "Les Narvaux"	white	(90-93)
2021	»» Puligny-Montrachet "Champs Canet" 1er	white	(91-94)

Jean-Pierre Latour described the 2021 vintage as "one where the frost was beyond terrible. For example, in our holdings in Genevrières and Narvaux, we lost 95% of the potential crop. We put out warming pots in some parcels but if they did any good, our results didn't support that idea. I do my best to rationalize what happened by acknowledging that if we had, by chance, normal yields, the fruit would never have ripened. So on the one hand, it's easy to lament the absence of volume but on the other, if you're being honest, normal yields would have produced a lot of really bad wine. We picked between the 16th and the 24th of September and brought in ripe fruit that averaged 13% in potential alcohols with excellent acidities. On average, we had only one to two bunches per vine so as I mentioned, volumes were the worst that I personally have ever seen. For that reason, we will not issue a Bouchères, Perrières or Poruzots in 2021. The good news in all of this though is that the quality is superb and especially so for those who love classic whites. They remind me of riper versions of 1981, which was also a vintage that was heavily frosted." I agree with Latour's take as the quality of his 2021s is indeed exceptional and while they won't be easy to find, they are absolutely worth searching out as every wine in the range is highly recommended. (Atherton Wine Imports, www.awiwines.com, CA, Chemin des Vins, www.chemindesvins.com, MA, both USA; Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, Thorman Hunt & Co., www.thormanhunt.co.uk and Atlas Fine Wines, www.atlasfinewines.com, UK; Shanghai Vinchamp International Trading Co. Ltd., www.vinchamp.com, Shanghai, China).

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2021 Bourgogne Chardonnay: (from vines in Meursault). A ripe but cool mix features mostly notes of white orchard fruit and citrus. There is a lovely texture to the sleek, detailed and vibrant middleweight flavors that possess unusually good density before terminating in a beautifully long, firm and balanced finale. This is a very serious Bourgogne and possess **first-rate quality** for its level. (87-89)/2026+

2021 Meursault – Cuvée Charles Maxime: (from the Domaine founders of Charles Giraud and Maxime Latour – the fruit derives from multiple *lieux-dits* that include Les Corbins, Le Cromin, Les Chevalières, Les Crotots, Les Vireuils, Les Pelles, Le Limozin and Les Malpoiriers; in 2021, blend also include 1er fruit from Bouchères, Perrières and Poruzots). This is aromatically similar to the Bourgogne but with more elegance as well as a suggestion of hazelnut. There is outstanding density to the powerful, palate saturating and stony medium-bodied flavors that conclude in a youthfully austere, balanced and beautifully long finale. This is excellent and a wine that should age accordingly. (90-92)/2029+

2021 Meursault “Les Narvaux”: (Latour noted that he made two barrels instead of the normal 12 in 2021). A cool, pure and beautifully layered nose blends notes of green apple and citrus with those of spice and toasted nuts. The super-sleek, intense and mineral-driven medium-bodied flavors possess terrific length on the moderately austere, bone-dry and tightly wound finale. This is easily of 1er quality and highly recommended for a *villages*-level Meursault. (90-93)/2029+

2021 Meursault “Charmes”: (from 35+ year old vines in Charmes Dessus). Pungent aromas of wood, reduction and a hint of phenolic character render the nose unreadable today. More interesting are the dense, powerful and almost painfully intense larger-scaled flavors that also soak the palate with sappy dry extract that does an excellent job of buffering the firm acid spine shaping the bone-dry, moderately austere and impressively long finale. This is extremely promising. (92-94)/2031+

2021 Meursault “Genevrières”: (from 40+ year old vines from a huge 2.5 ha parcel in Genevrières Dessus). A cool, pure and elegant array of lilac, lavender, lemon rind and green apple scents displays a wisp of exotic spiced tea. Much like the palate impression of the Charmes, the unusually rich and voluminous medium weight flavors completely coat the palate with sappy dry extract which again buffers the firm acid backbone on the focused, complex and beautifully persistent finish where a hint of bitter lemon arises. This is at once lacy and refined yet powerful while also remaining extremely promising - it should amply repay a decade plus of cellaring. (92-94)/2031+

2021 Puligny-Montrachet “Champs Canet”: A slightly riper nose also displays a hint of phenolic character on the aromas of white and yellow peach, acacia blossom and a subtle application of wood. While not quite as dense on the palate, the medium-bodied flavors still possess very fine concentration along with evident power and energy that carries over to the balanced and long finish that flashes excellent complexity if not quite the same refinement, indeed it is borderline rustic, something that is most unusual for a prime Puligny 1er. This is however even more tightly wound and if ageworthy white Burgundy is appealing to you, look no further. (91-94)/2033+

2021 Meursault “Genevrières – Cuvée des Pierres”: (from 50+ year old vines that see a bit more new wood though this means 33% rather than 25%; 1 barrel made rather than the usual 4 to 5 and as such, it will be bottled exclusively in magnum format). A reserved nose is a lovely marriage of mineral reduction, exotic tea, a plethora of floral elements and a very subtle application of oak. The palate impression is similar as it combines concentration, power and refinement along with an almost pungent minerality that adds lift to the lemony, youthfully austere and very tightly coiled finale that goes on and on. This is terrific and a wine that should age effortlessly and particularly so in large format. (93-95)/2036+

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2021	➔ Bourgogne	red	(86-89)
2021	Pommard – Cuvée Carmen	red	(88-91)
2021	➔ Volnay – Cuvée des Chênes	red	(89-91)

I will have more on Jean-Pierre Latour's views of the 2021 vintage in Issue 91. He did however note that there will be no Pommard Refène in 2021 as it was included with the Cuvée Carmen and no Clos des Chênes either as it was declassified into a Volnay *villages* cuvée. This is because Latour took the unusual, and entirely admirable, step of declassifying all his reds one level as the wines were not, in his view, worthy of the appellation. As he put it, "we have to take care of our clients and I just didn't feel as though I was respecting them by claiming the appellations based on the quality so I declassified them." (Atherton Wine Imports, www.awiwine.com, CA, Chemin des Vins, www.chemindesvins.com, MA both USA; Bibendum Wine Ltd., www.bibendum-wine.co.uk, Thorman Hunt & Co., www.thormanhunt.co.uk, and Atlas Fine Wines, www.atlasfinewines.com, all UK; Shanghai Vinchamp International Trading Co. Ltd., www.vinchamp.com, Shanghai, China).

2021 Bourgogne: (this is from declassified Pommard *villages*). Relatively deep ruby color. A distinctly earthy nose combines notes of various dark berries with hints of the *sauvage* and herbal tea. The sleek and delicious middleweight flavors possess superb definition and excellent punch on the mildly austere finish that displays only a touch of rusticity. Lovely for what this is. (86-89)/2025+

2021 Volnay – Cuvée des Chênes: (the fruit is from the 1er Clos des Chênes but declassified to *villages*-level). This too possesses excellent color along with a very subtle application of wood that sets off the equally earthy if much spicier aromas of dark pinot fruit, plum and violet. Here too the mouthfeel is quite sleek if noticeably more polished and more mineral-driven with fine length on the balanced and moderately austere finale. Worth checking out. (89-91)/2028+

2021 Pommard – Cuvée Carmen: (2/3 from Les Vignots and 1/3 from the 1er Refène). Excellent limpid ruby color. Fresh if somber aromas include those of forest floor, red currant, dark cherry and a hint of the *sauvage*. I very much like the texture of the equally polished and sleek medium-bodied flavors that also flash evident minerality on the tension-filled, youthfully austere and balanced finish that isn't quite as persistent. This should repay up to a decade of keeping yet there is sufficient mid-palate fat to allow it to be enjoyed young too. (88-91)/2028+