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Domaine Latour-Giraud (Meursault)

2022	» Bourgogne Chardonnay	white	87
2022	» Meursault "Bouchères" 1er	white	91
2022	» Meursault "Charmes" 1er	white	93
2022	» Meursault – Cuvée Charles Maxime	white	90
2022	» Meursault "Genevrières" 1er	white	94
2022	» Meursault "Genevrières – Cuvée des Pierres" 1er	white	95
2022	» Meursault "Les Narvaux"	white	90
2022	» Meursault "Perrières" 1er	white	94
2022	» Meursault "Poruzots" 1er	white	92
2022	» Puligny-Montrachet "Champs Canet" 1er	white	95

Jean-Pierre Latour described the 2022 growing season as "one that was one of the hottest and driest on record yet, inexplicably, one that produced fresh, vibrant and classically styled wines! It was also one where we had just enough rain at just the right moments to mostly avoid hydric stress in the vineyards. We also managed to avoid any climatic incidences such as frost and hail, or at least none that did any real damage. We began picking on the 24th of August and brought in super-clean and ripe fruit with good but certainly not high yields that ranged between 35 to 40 hl/ha. Potential alcohols were also reasonable at 13 to 13.5% with solid acidities. As to the wines, one surprising aspect is how much subtlety they have developed during the course of the *élevage* as they were somewhat monolithic just after the fermentations. Now that they're in bottle, they remind me a great deal of what we produced in 2014, which to me is a high compliment as I love the style and quality of 2014." I have said this before but if you're not searching out these wines, you're missing out on one of the best kept secrets in Meursault. They, along with domaines Henri Germain, Ballot-Millot and Michel Bouzereau consistently offer outstanding quality for quite reasonable prices. Either way, the Latour 2022s are first-rate and every wine is highly recommended. Latour noted that his 2022 whites were bottled in January and February 2024. (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, UK; Shanghai Vinchamp International Trading Co. Ltd., www.vinchamp.com, Shanghai, China).

2022 Bourgogne Chardonnay: (from vines in Meursault). A discreet whiff of exotic character is present on the aromas of petrol, white orchard fruit and citrus confit. The rich and solidly concentrated middleweight flavors possess a lovely texture that carries over to the bitter zest-inflected, refreshing and sneaky long finish. A quality Bourgogne. 87/2026+

2022 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). Here too whiffs of petrol and phenolic character add breadth to the aromas of essence of pear, orange peel and acacia blossom. The dense, sappy and beautifully textured medium weight flavors possess excellent depth and persistence on the balanced finale. This offers excellent quality for its level and is warmly recommended. 90/2029+

2022 Meursault “Les Narvaux”: Here a more elegant nose resembles that of the Charles Maxim save for a broader range of floral elements. The palate impression of the medium-bodied flavors is finer and more mineral-driven if not quite as concentrated, all wrapped in a youthfully austere, firm, balanced and bitter zest-inflected finish. One to look for. 90/2030+

2022 Meursault “Bouchères”: There is a touch of residual post-bottling reduction though a pretty floral wisp is discernible. More interesting are the highly energetic and well-detailed flavors that possess solid concentration yet the mouthfeel is really quite delicate before terminating in a lingering, balanced and overtly citrus-inflected finale. Lovely and while this could use better depth, it has what it needs to age gracefully over the next decade. 91/2030+

2022 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). Barely apparent wood influence is present on the ripe aromas of pear and apple compote, citrus confit and petrol. The rich and full-bodied flavors possess an abundance of dry extract that buffers the firm, palate coating and powerful finish that also exude a bitter zest character. At least some patience would be beneficial as this impressively complex effort is presently quite compact though not especially austere. 92/2032+

2022 Meursault “Charmes”: (from 35+ year old vines in Charmes Dessus). Like the Bouchères, this is also relatively firmly reduced. On the palate though there is both excellent freshness and verve suffusing the finer and sleeker middleweight flavors that exude evident minerality on the impressively complex, long and impeccably well-balanced finale. This is excellent and a wine that should easily repay a decade plus of keeping. Highly recommended particularly for those who enjoy cellaring their whites. 93/2032+

2022 Meursault “Genevrières”: (from 40+ year old vines from a huge 2.5 ha parcel in Genevrières Dessus). Firm reduction masks all the aromas except an interesting hint of exotic tea. There is again both good vibrancy and freshness to the finer still, but not denser, medium weight flavors that are almost delicate yet certainly don't lack for punch as the strikingly long finale is almost painfully intense. This is bone-dry but not especially austere and overall, one very classy wine. Buy it if you can find it. 94/2032+

2022 Meursault “Perrières”: Here there are no reductive notes to the aromas of mineral reduction, anise, green apple and plenty of floral elements that are complemented by the refined and pure medium weight flavors that possess a positively gorgeous mouthfeel while displaying evident minerality on the hugely long finish that is shaped by bright citrus-tinged acidity. This beauty of a Perrières is presently very compact and clearly in need of an extended stay in a cool cellar. This is also one to buy, at least provided you intend to cellar it for at least 5 to 7 years first. 94/2032+

2022 Puligny-Montrachet “Champs Canet”: Ripe and beautifully layered aromas of pear and apple compote, a broad array of floral elements, spice, especially anise and citrus confit are trimmed in admirably subtle wood influence. There is outstanding volume to the concentrated, powerful and serious yet wonderfully refined medium weight plus flavors that coat the palate with sappy dry extract on the tension-filled, complex and strikingly persistent finale. This is a big but perfectly balanced Champs Canet and once again, a wine that is well-worth a special search to find. In a word, terrific. 95/2034+

2022 Meursault “Genevrières – Cuvée des Pierres”: (from 50+ year old vines that see a bit more new wood though this means 33% rather than 25%). Here too the expressive nose is beautifully layered with its aromas of exotic tea, smoked green apple, acacia and plenty of citrus elements. The super-sleek, intense and equally gorgeously textured, and more mineral-driven, flavors display impressive length on the unusually powerful finish that exhibits outstanding depth and persistence. This bone-dry, youthfully austere and compact effort is also exceptionally classy and should be great wine in time. Brilliant. 95/2034+

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2022	➔ Meursault "Caillerets" 1er	red	91
2022	➔ Pommard – Cuvée Carmen	red	89
2022	➔ Pommard "La Refène" 1er	red	92
2022	➔ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	93

I will have more on Jean-Pierre Latour's views of the 2022 vintage in Issue 95. He did however note that the "trick with the reds was to preserve the freshness and energy as it would have been easy for them to be rich and opulent but somewhat flat." They were bottled in January and February 2024. (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).

2022 Pommard – Cuvée Carmen: (from Les Vignots). Ripe and pretty aromas include those of mostly red berries and earth nuances. There is both good vibrancy and detail to the attractively textured middleweight flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the mildly austere and impeccably well-balanced finale. This is firm enough to repay up to a decade of cellaring, which is just as well as it could use better overall depth. Worth considering, especially since this is a bit finer than usual. 89/2029+

2022 Meursault "Caillerets": A spicier and more elegant nose features liqueur-like notes of black cherry, poached plum and a suggestion of exotic tea. The fresh, vibrant and equally attractively textured medium weight flavors flash even more minerality on the detailed, punchy and refreshing finale. Despite being slightly more structured, this could be approached on the younger side if desired. With that said, this too could use better depth so at least a few years of cellaring should be beneficial. 91/2030+

2022 Pommard "La Refène": Here too there is a liqueur-like quality to the aromas of black raspberry, violet and more discreet spice whiffs. The sleek, delicious and energetic medium-bodied flavors aren't quite as dense but they too possess a lovely texture that carries over to the youthfully austere, firm, balanced and built-to-age finale. This is already lovely but offers fine development potential as well. 92/2032+

2022 Volnay "Clos des Chênes: (the parcel is more to the south by Monthélie side than by Taillepiéds). A ripe yet cool nose features an abundance of spice elements along with notes of poached plum, warm earth and a whiff of crushed anise. The larger-scaled, concentrated and intensely mineral-driven flavors coat the palate with sappy dry extract that helps to buffer the very firm tannic spine shaping the hugely long finale. This beauty of a Clos des Chênes should age effortlessly for years, indeed it should see its 20th birthday in fine form. 93/2034+