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THE ULTIMATE BURGUNDY REFERENCE

Domaine Latour-Giraud (Meursault)

2019	Meursault "Caillerets" 1er	red	(89-92)
2019	➔ Pommard – Cuvée Carmen	red	(89-91)
2019	Pommard "La Refène" 1er	red	(90-92)
2019	➔ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(90-93)

I will have more on Jean-Pierre Latour's views of the 2019 vintage in Issue 83. (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).

2019 Pommard – Cuvée Carmen: Ripe aromas combine those of poached plum and cassis with those of pungent earth. There is outstanding volume and density to the nicely detailed medium-bodied flavors that conclude in moderate rustic, austere and mildly warm finale. This serious effort is quite good for its level and is built to reward mid-term cellaring. (89-91)/2026+

2019 Meursault "Caillerets": A brooding and ripe nose features slightly more elegant aromas of black cherry, cassis and spice. There is fine verve to the finer but not necessarily denser middle weight flavors that exude a subtle minerality on the balanced and lingering finish. This is lovely and understated in style. (89-92)/2025+

2019 Pommard "La Refène": Here there is just enough reduction to push the underlying fruit to the background. Otherwise there is equally good vibrancy to the sleek and refined flavors that exhibit both more volume and power on the reasonably balanced finish because even though there is a trace of warmth, it is subtle. The structure is firm enough to require 10+ years to resolve yet there is such good richness that this could be approached after only 5 or so years. (90-92)/2029+

2019 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": A restrained nose grudgingly reveals overtly spicy aromas of black pinot fruit, earth and pretty floral nuances and in particular violet. The super-sleek, intense and beautifully detailed medium weight flavors also exude evident minerality on the impressively long and bitter pit fruit-inflected finish that displays focused power. This is worth checking out provided you intended to cellar it for at least a few years first as it's definitely compact at present. (90-93)/2029+

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Domaine Latour-Giraud (Meursault)

2019	➔ Bourgogne Chardonnay	white	(86-89)
2019	➔ Meursault "Bouchères" 1er	white	(91-93)
2019	➔ Meursault "Charmes" 1er	white	(92-94)
2019	Meursault – Cuvée Charles Maxime	white	(88-91)
2019	➔ Meursault "Genevrières" 1er	white	(91-94)
2019	➔ Meursault "Genevrières – Cuvée des Pierres" 1er	white	(92-95)
2019	➔ Meursault "Les Narvaux"	white	(90-92)
2019	➔ Meursault "Perrières" 1er	white	(92-95)
2019	➔ Meursault "Poruzots" 1er	white	(91-94)
2019	➔ Puligny-Montrachet "Champs Canet" 1er	white	(91-94)

Jean-Pierre Latour described the 2019 growing season as containing "lots of potential for missteps as Mother Nature was difficult. The flowering was very difficult and especially so in the premier cru vineyards and then the intense heat and drought also contributed to a small crop load. In some ways this was serendipitous because the hydric stress caused by the heat and drought was such that if we had had a normal crop load, the fruit would have never adequately ripened. We picked from the 5th of September and brought in clean and ripe but importantly, not over ripe fruit that averaged between 13.5 and 14% in terms of potential alcohols. Yields though were another matter as the 1ers topped out at 25 hl/ha and the *villages* wines gave us no more than 30 hl/ha. As to the wines, at this early stage they are less aromatic than were the 2018s at the same point in their development with excellent structure which should enable them to age gracefully for many years. Another aspect that is important is that the wines are definitely ripe, yet you don't really sense the sun as they're so well-balanced. Overall, I would put the 2019s on the same qualitative level as the 2017s, which is a compliment in my book." I completely agree with Latour as I was definitely impressed with the quality I found. (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).

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2019 Bourgogne Chardonnay: (from vines in Meursault). Reduction dominates the nose at present but there is both good freshness and verve to the solidly dense middle weight flavors that possess a caressing mouthfeel before concluding in a citrusy and mildly warm finale. This is a big Bourgogne that should repay short to mid-term keeping. (86-89)/2023+

2019 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). A very Meursault nose combines notes of acacia, grilled nuts, pear and a subtle whiff of wood influence. Here too there is fine volume to the relatively powerful medium weight flavors that possess good length and reasonable depth in a slightly more structured package. (88-91)/2024+

2019 Meursault “Les Narvaux”: A more elegant combination consists of cool citrus and airy floral nuances along with apple, poached pear and a whiff of exotic tea. The delicious, racy and impressively concentrated medium-bodied flavors that display excellent power on the compact, mineral driven and beautifully long finale. This is a really good Meursault *villages* that should age gracefully for up to a decade. (90-92)/2027+

2019 Meursault “Bouchères”: Like the Narvaux, the nose is beautifully elegant, pure and citrusy with its overtly floral array of apple, spice and soft wood nuances. There is unusually good volume and powerful to the vibrant middle weight flavors that exude plenty of minerality on the lingering finish where the only reproach is a touch of warmth. This is a big Bouchères and arguably somewhat less refined than is typical, but I like the sense of harmony. (91-93)/2027+

2019 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). An attractively layered if restrained nose only grudgingly reveals its aromas of mineral reduction, green fruit, petrol and toasted hazelnut. There is more volume still to the powerful and concentrated flavors that possess so much dry extract that there is a borderline chewy texture to the super-intense, refreshing and hugely long finish. This too is a big wine with excellent development potential. (91-94)/2029+

2019 Meursault “Charmes”: (from 35+ year old vines in Charmes Dessus). Reduction dominates the nose but there is a lovely sense of freshness and verve to the notably finer and more precise if less dense and powerful flavors that flash evident minerality on the bitter lemon suffused finish. This impressively persistent effort is excellent and a wine that should amply repay a decade plus of cellaring. (92-94)/2029+

2019 Meursault “Genevrières”: (from 40+ year old vines from a huge 2.5 ha parcel in Genevrières Dessus). This too is sufficiently reduced to mask the fruit though discreet spice elements can be discerned. There is excellent volume and mid-palate density to the extract rich flavors that pack very good punch on the stony and surprisingly powerful finish that offers excellent length where the only reproach is a touch of warmth. While this retains the intrinsic refinement of a fine Genevrières, it's bigger and more powerful than usual. (91-94)/2027+

2019 Meursault “Perrières”: An elegant and restrained nose almost timidly offers up its aromas of acacia blossom, citrus rind and mineral reduction. Here too there is excellent volume and concentration to the almost painfully intense middle weight flavors that possess a gorgeous texture on the bone-dry and citrusy finish where a touch of wood slowly emerges. This is packed with development potential and a wine that should also repay a decade plus of cellaring. (92-95)/2029+

2019 Puligny-Montrachet “Champs Canet”: An interestingly nose combines notes of petrol with moderately exotic aromas that reflect notes of lychee, white and yellow peach and a gentle dollop of wood. There is once again very fine volume and mid-palate density to the opulent, indeed almost thick, flavors that possess a succulent mouthfeel, all wrapped in a powerful, sappy and mildly warm finale. This generously proportioned effort is very Puligny in style and possesses a very different texture than the Perrières. (91-94)/2027+

2019 Meursault “Genevrières – Cuvée des Pierres”: (from 50+ year old vines that see a bit more new wood though this means 33% rather than 25%). Ripe aromas of jasmine tea, petrol, citrus confit and mineral reduction introduce seriously punchy medium-bodied flavors that are dense and powerful yet refined and intensely mineral-driven flavors that culminate in a bone-dry, youthfully austere and compact finish that is balanced, long and built-to-age. In a word, terrific. (92-95)/2031+