

B U R G H O U N D . C O M[®]

THE ULTIMATE BURGUNDY REFERENCE

Domaine Latour-Giraud (Meursault)

2020	Meursault "Caillerets" 1er	red	(90-92)
2020	Pommard – Cuvée Carmen	red	(88-90)
2020	➤ Pommard "La Refène" 1er	red	(90-93)
2020	➤ Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(91-94)

I will have more on Jean-Pierre Latour's views of the 2020 vintage in Issue 87. (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).

2020 Pommard – Cuvée Carmen: (from Les Vignots). A somber, even brooding, nose features notes of ripe dark berries, newly turned earth and a whiff of spice. The fresh, full-bodied and intense middle weight flavors display a touch of rusticity on the youthfully austere finale. This will need a few to further flesh out and add depth. (88-90)/2027+

2020 Meursault "Caillerets": This too is aromatically brooding and restrained with a broader range of spice elements to the very ripe aromas of cassis, black raspberry and violet scents. The notably finer but not denser medium-bodied flavors possess a lovely texture thanks to the relatively fine-grained tannins shaping the youthfully austere finale. This is really quite good but also a wine where at least a few years of keeping would be beneficial. (90-92)/2028+

2020 Pommard "La Refène": A notably ripe yet still appealingly fresh nose features liqueur-like aromas of cassis, black cherry and prominent earth nuances. There is fine mid-palate density to the moderately powerful, focused and sappy flavors that also display relatively fine-grained tannins on the youthfully austere and more obviously structured finale. Once again, at least a few years of patience should be very beneficial. (90-93)/2030+

2020 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": This is aromatically similar to the La Refène but with more spice nuances in place. There is even better volume and focused power to the bigger-bodied and beautifully textured flavors that exude evident minerality on the youthfully austere, compact and more tightly wound finale that displays first-rate length. This is potentially terrific but like all examples of Clos des Chênes, this is definitely built-to-age and a wine that will clearly need it. One to consider. (91-94)/2032+

B U R G H O U N D . C O M[®]

THE ULTIMATE BURGUNDY REFERENCE

Domaine Latour-Giraud (Meursault)

2020	» Bourgogne Chardonnay	white	87
2020	» Meursault "Bouchères" 1er	white	(91-93)
2020	» Meursault "Charmes" 1er	white	(92-94)
2020	» Meursault – Cuvée Charles Maxime	white	(89-91)
2020	» Meursault "Genevrières" 1er	white	(91-94)
2020	» Meursault "Genevrières – Cuvée des Pierres" 1er	white	(93-96)
2020	» Meursault "Les Narvaux"	white	(90-92)
2020	» Meursault "Perrières" 1er	white	(93-96)
2020	» Meursault "Poruzots" 1er	white	(92-94)
2020	» Puligny-Montrachet "Champs Canet" 1er	white	(92-95)

Jean-Pierre Latour described the 2020 vintage as "one that was relatively easy to manage as there wasn't much disease pressure due to how hot and dry the conditions were, in fact they were severe enough to induce hydric stress in some parcels. We picked from the 20th of August and brought in super-clean fruit with moderate alcohols of between 13 and 13.5% for the whites. I am convinced the alcohol levels would have been higher without the hydric stress but better they came in where they did rather than having a bunch of 14% plus wines. By contrast, yields were all over the place as the flowering did not pass especially well in some vineyards. For example, we had normal yields in some parcels whereas the Genevrières was down fully 50%. As to the wines, I believe that 2020 is an exceptional vintage as the balance is perfect, indeed they remind me quite a bit of my 2014s, another vintage that is exceptional." Latour is entirely justified to call the results he obtained exceptional as his 2020s are outstanding, indeed it's best vintage I have seen from him since 2014. These are wines to search out as the quality is phenomenal and every wine in the range is highly recommended. (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).

B U R G H O U N D . C O M[®]

THE ULTIMATE BURGUNDY REFERENCE

2020 Bourgogne Chardonnay: (from vines in Meursault). This had just been bottled before my visit and there was a background hint of sulfur to the aromas of petrol, smoke and very pretty apple and pear scents. There is excellent punch and delineation to the delicious flavors that conclude in a nicely dry, crisp, lemony and lingering finish. This is a fine Bourgogne that should repay a few years of keeping if desired. 87/2024+

2020 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 there are touches of smoke and petrol to the more complex aromas of essence of pear, hazelnut and acacia blossom. There is better volume to the equally punchy and attractively textured medium weight flavors that culminate in a clean, dry and lingering finale. This could use better depth, but more will almost certainly develop given the probable maturation curve. This too is worth checking out. (89-91)/2026+

2020 Meursault “Les Narvaux”: A slightly riper and entirely classic Meursault nose features notes of brown nut butter, acacia and white orchard fruit compote that is trimmed in subtle citrus nuances. There is excellent drive to the super-sleek and overtly stony medium-bodied flavors that possess impressive density on the bone-dry, youthfully austere and tightly wound finale. This is clearly built-to-age and is a wine that should repay up to a decade of keeping. (90-92)/2027+

2020 Meursault “Bouchères”: Here too there are touch of smoke and petrol to the cool, pure and wonderfully elegant aromas of citrus-suffused white peach, passion fruit and carnation. As one would reasonably expect, there is a much finer texture to the almost delicate middle weight flavors that exude a more subtle bead of minerality on the focused, impeccably balanced and sneaky long finale. A classic Bouchères of unmatched finesse. (91-93)/2028+

2020 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). There is a whiff of phenolic character to the ripe aromas of green fruit, white peach, spice and citrus confit. This too possesses a wonderfully sleek texture to the more intense and noticeably more powerful larger-bodied flavors that culminate in an almost tannic, citrusy and very dry finale. This muscular effort delivers outstanding length in a package that should reward every bit of a decade of keeping. (92-94)/2030+

2020 Meursault “Charmes”: (from 35+ year old vines in Charmes Dessus). Moderately firm reduction pushes the ripe underlying fruit to the background today. More interesting are the solidly dense and surprisingly powerful yet refined medium weight flavors that also display impeccably good balance on the lingering finale. This too could use a bit better depth but given the quality of the underlying material, more should almost certainly develop. A classic rendition. (92-94)/2028+

2020 Meursault “Genevrières”: (from 40+ year old vines from a huge 2.5 ha parcel in Genevrières Dessus). Like the Poruzots, there is a noticeable phenolic character to the slightly riper aromas of jasmine tea, white peach and floral nuances. The gorgeously textured medium weight flavors possess excellent mid-palate density along with ample minerality that adds a sense of lift to the bone-dry, moderately austere and impressively long finale. This too will need to develop more depth though if it does it could well merit the upper end of my projected range as this is really quite stylish. (91-94)/2028+

2020 Meursault “Perrières”: Cool, pure and restrained aromas include those of mineral reduction, green apple, spiced pear and a lovely range of floral elements. The super-sleek and almost painfully intense middle weight flavors flash outstanding minerality on the cuts-like-a-knife and hugely long and youthfully austere bone-dry finish. This is quite simply terrific and absolutely a wine to add to your cellars. (93-96)/2030+

2020 Puligny-Montrachet “Champs Canet”: A vague whiff of the exotic is present on the blend of both white and yellow peach, floral and spicy aromas where a hint of phenolic character lurks in the background. Here too the texture of the medium-bodied flavors is super-sleek, refined and intense while the sappy and youthfully austere finish exhibits excellent length. This isn't quite as mineral-driven as the Perrières or as delicate as the Bouchères but it's quite classy all the same. (92-95)/2030+

2020 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 there is a vague whiff of the exotic on the markedly spicy aromas of dried peach, pear, apricot, passion fruit and a similar background note of phenolic character. There is again excellent volume to the overtly stony medium weight flavors that brim with sappy dry extract on the balanced and superbly persistent finale. This ageworthy effort is also very, very classy and a wine that is worth a special search to find. (93-96)/2030+