

BURGUNDY REPORT

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DOMAINE LATOUR GIRAUD



Tasted in Meursault with Jean-Pierre Latour, 29 October 2024.

Jean-Pierre on 2024 :

“About 65% down in the whites, more like 80% in the reds. We approached the limits of treatments this year – at least for vines. I do have confidence in the wines that will come – we had nice grapes but it was demoralising to see the quantities...”

Jean-Pierre on 2023 :

“A year which started with a mild, wet, winter – rain and general humidity, stormy in May, waves of storms. Then flowering at the start of June – a couple of weeks earlier than in 2024 and in good conditions. The flowering and the good rhythm between rain and warm weather made for a charge of grapes that would be very difficult to ripen but in the end, the heat of the last 14 days before harvesting finished the maturation – bringing us, in the end, concentration and depth in the wines. Certain of our reds are very concentrated – I wanted to keep that fruit, so I racked them before the harvest but today I really can’t say when I’ll bottle them – they are not finished – certainly not before the end of February. The surprise is how ‘alive’ the wines are – not the heaviness we might have feared from the hot sunny weather. There’s no blanket of warmth that is hiding the expression of the different places – and here, we had exactly the same production volume as in 2022...”

The wines...

A beautiful range of 2023s from Jean-Pierre – there are great wines worth a special search to find – in both colours. Well done !!

2023 Pommard Cuvée Carmen :

Fresh and incisive – faintly spiced and very attractive. This sits well in the mouth – almost juicy and with a modest frame of ripe tannin – the finish, slightly mineral and stony, radiating outwards in waves – that’s a very tasty starting wine with obvious depth of flavour – it will be lovely...

2023 Meursault 1er Caillerets

Extra depth – dark, ripe berry fruit aromas. Supple – larger in scale – impressively concentrated again – the tannin less visible but with a hint of dryness today – but such an impressive almost graphic length – sustained and completely excellent !!

2023 Pommard 1er Refène

Again dark fruit – here with a more high-toned expression and width versus the depth of the Caillerets – slowly starts to hint of some more floral accents. Supple, next level textural width – a beautiful velvet width to this comforting, moreish flavour. That’s a really top Pommard- I love it – contemplative and absorbing wine.

2023 Volnay 1er Clos des Chênes

Also dark berries, with a hint more gloss and energy. What a juicy wine – one of real volume and a fine juicy energy. Large in scale, framed with some dryness of tannin but almost no grain – the tannin of this and the Caillerets will be gone in 1-2 years. Long finishing – a wine that’s more austere today than the Refene – which today is the ultimate in hedonistic drinking. But give this time – it will be excellent...

Les Whites :

Assembled but no fining or filtration at this stage:

2023 Bourgogne Chardonnay

All from the commune of Meursault.

Ooh – that’s broad, fresh and perfumed – a great start! Alive in the mouth too – direct but mouth-filling with a small strictness of structure to keep me on the straight and narrow... Vibrant in a super finish too – that’s going to be a very high-class Bourgogne – and it’s delicious too...

2023 Meursault Cuvée Charles-Maxime

Named after two grandfathers – the Latour and the Giraud from which the domaine takes its name. Normally, 7 different parcels that offer a round view of the village.

Here is more depth and concentration of aroma – a little less width – but slowly the perfume of the Bourgogne is also present. Hmm, concentration and fine texture. Ripe but not over-ripe, mouth-watering but not too electric energy – this is a confident, composed and delicious wine that offers lots of concentration – finishing long but subtly long – not an overt personality today but a very agreeable one.

2023 Meursault Narvaux

Deep but with an extra aromatic energy in the top notes, there's some zestiness to this citrus. In the mouth, definitely so... Here is concentration and generosity of texture but also a fine energy, one that brings proper intensity to this burst of finishing flavours, framed by a faintly textural tannin and/or citrus skin bitters. Long and involving – it's a beauty...

2023 Meursault 1er Bouchères

A much more floral-perfumed nose – airy and so attractive. The most open and juicy wine of this series, so far – the concentration is less overt but the intensity more. Here is detail and complexity – delicious detail and complexity – and it's clearly my new favourite!!

2023 Meursault 1er Poruzots

Airy and open – like Bouchères – but in this case with a stricter, more stony width of aroma. In the mouth we certainly have a little more structure to this wine but the flavour has a more overt concentration too – a vibration of finishing flavour that I like very much. This wine is currently less 'in place' than the Bouchères but There is much here – I think it will be super.

2023 Meursault 1er Charmes

Half dessous and half top of the vineyard. But not the bottom part that was reclassified in 1974...

Also quite airy today but there's focus to this yellow citrus – a little more aromatic detail. Large scale and with beautifully fluid concentration – I love the texture. The concentration is clear for this wine but without compromising the energy and balance of the wine. Here is the most engaging and complex of the finishes so far. That's going to be a really fine Charmes...

2023 Meursault 1er Genevrières

Open and transparent – what clarity and floral complexity, a small smoky spice element – yes! There's a certain fluidity here – like in the Charmes – but the concentration is more a background impression for this wine. Silken, a suggestion of textural generosity – then a burst of finishing width – my word this is excellent – potentially a great one. I'd drink this today with absolute pleasure.

2023 Meursault 1er Perrières

Directly a more chalky aromatic impression, with depth and clarity. Vibrant, so deep, so obviously mineral. What a blend of energy and minerality – the energy more in the citrus register than the mineral today. The finish is intense and mouth-puckeringly moreish. Strict in absolutely the best sense of the word.

2023 Puligny-Montrachet 1er Champs Canet

Here the aromatic arms are wide open and welcoming – a little floral too – there's some extra ripeness of the citrus that supports all. Exciting, a bundle of juicy energy, the first wine with a suggestion of barrel flavour – but it won't be here long. Refreshing, dangerous wine !!

2023 Meursault 1er Genevrières Cuvée des Pierre

Always a parcel selection where the grapes are destined for this cuvée – never a barrel selection!

Here the nose has the same small fumé note of the previous Genevrières but here the focus is more on the fruit than the flowers – a more concentrated nose – less open and airy. But here is depth and concentration – volume still, too. A more considered and concentrated wine today – a certain ginger spice that's more visible in these flavours – a great wine – but I probably would want to keep it 6-8 years before starting to harvest the bottles – drink the 'classic' version while waiting! The finish is really a special thing – so persistent.