

BURGHOUND.COM®

THE ULTIMATE BURGUNDY REFERENCE

Domaine Latour-Giraud (Meursault)

2018	» Bourgogne Chardonnay	white	88
2018	» Meursault "Bouchères" 1er	white	92
2018	» Meursault "Charmes" 1er	white	(91-94)
2018	» Meursault – Cuvée Charles Maxime	white	89
2018	» Meursault "Genevrières" 1er	white	92
2018	» Meursault "Genevrières – Cuvée des Pierres" 1er	white	94
2018	» Meursault "Les Narvaux"	white	(89-91)
2018	» Meursault "Perrières" 1er	white	93
2018	» Meursault "Poruzots" 1er	white	(91-93)
2018	» Puligny-Montrachet "Champs Canet" 1er	white	93

Jean-Pierre Latour winked while observing that "2017 is like the perfect child whereas 2018 is like the naughty child that everyone loves anyway! After a rainy spring, conditions thereafter turned hot and dry, yet we had just enough rain when the vines most needed it. This is a seemingly minor point but it's actual critical to understanding why there was so little hydric stress, or even none at all in many vineyards. We picked from the 29th of August and brought in yields that averaged around 40 hl/ha for the 1ers and between 45 and 48 hl/ha for the *villages* level wines. Potential alcohols were good to very good without actually being high, which is to say they ranged from a low of 12.8% to a high of 13.5%. While in some ways it's tempting to suggest that 2017 and 2018 made similarly styled wines, I don't see it that way. While it's true that some 2017s are actually very forward and already approachable, which can also be said about some 2018s, the two vintages are not constructed in the same fashion. The 2018s are super-aromatic whereas the 2017s are more restrained and more elegant. Both have their attributes and characteristics that will appeal to different consumers in different ways. 2017 is probably more serious and more ageworthy but the difference is not as great as what is being reported in my view." Latour further noted that a portion of his 2018s were bottled in January 2020. (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).

2018 Bourgogne Chardonnay: (from vines in Meursault). Whiffs of matchstick and petrol sits atop the aromas of white-fleshed fruit and soft citrus. The racy and very intense flavors possess excellent volume while displaying fine length on the refreshing finish. This is an excellent Bourgogne that would make a terrific house white. 88/2022+

2018 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 is a whiff of matchstick character suffusing the more elegant aromas of acacia blossom, pear, apple and lemon peel nuances. There is once again excellent volume to the equally racy and punchy middle weight flavors that possess a beguiling texture and a subtle minerality on the delicious finale. This needs a bit more depth but that should develop if this is allowed a few years of bottle age before pulling a cork. 89/2024+

2018 Meursault "Les Narvaux": The cool essence of spiced pear is complemented by notes of citrus, mineral reduction and lavender. As is usually the case there is more evident minerality to the intense and delicious flavors that are not quite as dense but they're both finer and more precise on the saline, dry and youthfully austere finale. Lovely. (89-91)/2025+

2018 Meursault "Bouchères": Noticeable post-bottling reduction overshadows the fruit at present. Otherwise there is a highly attractive sense of refinement to the medium weight flavors that exude a more subtle bead of minerality on the rich but delicate finale. This gorgeously textured and moderately structured effort should reward up to a decade of cellaring. 92/2026+

2018 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). This too is moderately reduced though the underlying fruit does seem ripe. As one would reasonably expect, there is both more volume and power to the broad-shouldered flavors that brim with dry extract before concluding in a full-on finish that really fans out as it sits on the palate. This is a bit less rustic than it usually is but not so much that you're likely to forget that this is still a Poruzots. (91-93)/2028+

2018 Meursault "Charmes": (from 35+ year old vines in Charmes Dessus). A more elegant and very Meursault nose combines notes of hazelnut, pear, acacia blossom and a wisp of petrol. The medium weight flavors are not as dense or powerful, but they are notably finer with a lovely bead of minerality emerging on the focused, long and agreeably dry finale. This is lovely and it's not so structured that it couldn't be approached after only a few years of cellaring. (91-94)/2026+

2018 Meursault "Genevrières": (from 40+ year old vines from a huge 2.5 ha parcel in Genevrières Dessus). Smoky, cool and elegant aromas are composed primarily of various white orchard fruit, acacia blossom, citrus rind, wood and a hint of exotic tea. The racy, intense and admirably concentrated flavors possess very good volume as well as an appealing minerality that adds a sense of lift to the sneaky long, balanced and firm finale. This too is lovely and a wine that will need at least a few years of cellaring as it's presently fairly tightly wound. 92/2026+

2018 Meursault "Perrières": An even more complex nose amalgamates notes of mineral reduction, green apple, pear liqueur, white flowers and a variety of citrus elements. The strikingly textured, intense and unusually rich flavors possess so much minerality that the mouthfeel is akin to rolling a small pebble on the palate, all wrapped in a harmonious and wonderfully long finale. This needs to develop more depth but that is typical for young Perrières. 93/2028+

2018 Puligny-Montrachet "Champs Canet": A discreet touch of wood easily allows the appealingly spicy aromas of petrol, lemon grass, white flower and apple to shine. The rich, full-bodied and utterly delicious flavors possess an opulent and highly seductive mouthfeel while coating the palate on the decidedly firm, precise and solidly persistent finish that is dry but not really austere. Good stuff and very Champs Canet in character. 93/2028+

2018 Meursault "Genevrières – Cuvée des Pierres": (from 50+ year old vines that see a bit more new wood though this means 33% rather than 25%). This is aromatically similar to the regular cuvée of Genevrières with just a bit more oak influence though I underscore that it remains subtle. The tight, intense and mineral-driven middle weight plus flavors brim with old vine sap that imparts a sappiness to the mouthfeel while buffering the very firm acid spine shaping the impressively long finish. This is terrific and impeccably well-balanced and a wine that should age for a very long time if desired. 94/2030+