

JASPER MORRIS Inside Burgundy

DOMAINE LATOUR-GIRAUD



2024 may have been a supremely difficult year but Jean-Pierre Latour made a point of saying that there were challenges in 2023 too which needed to be mastered. He started picking very early, on 24th August. He felt that the grapes were beginning to suffer, with degrees already half a point above 2022, so 13.5 to 14% in 2023 and yields no larger than the previous year, around 45 hl/ha for village wines. The whites took eight days to bring in, followed by the red 1ers Crus straight after, finishing with the village Pommard. Jean-Pierre has produced a fabulous range of classical white wines in 2023, truly typical of their terroirs.

WHITE

2023, Coteaux Bourguignons, Domaine Latour-Giraud

Chardonnay. Still the right side of the Nationale, close by l'Hôpital de Meursault. Young vines, first vintage 2020, nothing in 2021, then from 2022. The 2023 was bottled in late August. Two thirds tank with a third in barrel. Looking for freshness and no obvious wood effect. Juicy and grapey. Attractive lemon and lime note through the middle, no substantial body, but enough nonetheless at the back and surprisingly long for such young vines. A light salinity to finish. Drink from 2025-2026. Tasted Oct 2024.

Star rating : ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ 100pt score : 86

2023, Bourgogne Chardonnay, Domaine Latour-Giraud

From the upper part of Les Vaux. Mid lemon, summer flowers, a very cheerful Bourgogne Blanc which does not deny its Meursault neighbours. Stunning concentration behind. Jean-Pierre Latour has got this exactly right. Drink from 2026-2028. Tasted Oct 2024.

Star rating : 5 ★

100pt score : 88-91

2023, Meursault "Cuvée Charles Maxime", Domaine Latour-Giraud

A glowing primrose yellow. Succulent with a little additional wood. Ripe limes, fresh plums, ripe apples, quite a mix of fruit descriptors. This is a Meursault of both depth and breadth, too vibrant to be old style but with the bottom that those searching after butter and hazelnuts would like. Drink from 2027-2031. Tasted Oct 2024.

Star rating : ★★ ★★ ★

100pt score : 89-92

2023, Meursault Les Narvaux, Domaine Latour-Giraud

A paler lemon colour. More chiselled on the nose than the village blend. A little whiff of coconut from the oak. A more cerebral wine. Every bit as much intensity, arguably more, in a linear style with the energy growing steadily to the back of the palate. A fine long white fruit finish, the oak entirely integrated. Persistent. The vines are in Les Gorges de Narvaux Drink from 2027-2032. Tasted Oct 2024.

Star rating : ★★ ★★ ★

100pt score : 90-92

2023, Meursault Bouchères 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

Mid lemon yellow, some ripe citrus on the nose, less éclatant than Narvaux perhaps, but a great deal more on the palate, along with more evident oak. Concentrated ripe grapefruit as well as orchard fruit. Almost the structure of Poruzots rather than the elegance of some other Bouchères. The class is most evident at the back, again with some ripe limes to help define the finish. Terrific detail and precision. The holding is the northern outpost of Bouchères, almost inside Goutte d'Or Drink from 2029-2035. Tasted Oct 2024.

Star rating : 5 ★

100pt score : 93-96

2023, Meursault Poruzots 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

The Poruzots can be picked a fair bit later than their Bouchères Mid lemon yellow. A fractional reduction on top of ripe melon and fresh plum. Electric on the palate, this may have gained a little more white fruit flesh, but is still plum full of energy. Sound acidity to follow, as ever in the slightly four-square style of Poruzots, very well done. Drink from 2029-2036. Tasted Oct 2024.

Star rating : ★★ ★★ ★

100pt score: 92-95

2023, Meursault Charmes 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

Half and half between upper and lower Charmes. A bright rich lemon colour. Attractive but not especially demonstrative. Offering breadth and depth, there is no edge to the fruit, a significant mouthful of white orchard fruit, mostly at the back of the palate, intelligent oaking, correct acidity, and very persistent. I find more character in one or two of Jean-Pierre Latour's wines but this is properly Charmes. Drink from 2029-2036. Tasted Oct 2024.

Star rating : ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ **100pt score :** 91-94

2023, Meursault Genevrières 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

Mid yellow, with a really beautiful succulent nose, picked at perfect ripeness, and not hiding the delicacy and detail of fine Genevrières. Some lime, some verbena, delicate fresh apples, back to the lime blossom, then a really fine boned framework on the palate. Tingles the tastebuds in the most delicious way. A beautifully crafted 2023 Genevrières. Drink from 2029-2037. Tasted Oct 2024.

Star rating : ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ **100pt score :** 93-96

2023, Meursault Perrières 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

Mid lemon yellow, the weight and the sumptuous feel are certainly present. This is plump but within its corsets, ripe pears, a little citrus wash, plenty of weight. Good acidity, a certain crunchiness. Not quite so in place today as the Genevrières and with a little more warmth at the back, but Perrières majesty is certainly present. Drink from 2030-2038. Tasted Oct 2024.

Star rating : ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ **100pt score :** 92-94

2023, Puligny-Montrachet Champs Canet 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

Mid lemon yellow. Nutty, sunny, still fine, less power. You can tell this needed to be picked at the start, as the acidity though still correct is less evident. The vines are on SO4 rootstock, which encourages early ripening. Rays of sunshine across the palate, and Puligny delicacy. Drink from 2028-2034. Tasted Oct 2024.

Star rating : ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ **100pt score :** 91-9

2023, Meursault Genevrières "Cuvée des Pierre" 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

This special bottling comes from the top left corner of their holding. Mid lemon yellow. A sense of intensity rather than the detail up front. The wood is entirely integrated. Four barrels, out of 40 overall in Genevrières. (2 out of 13 in 2024). Two minutes in the glass and the highest class of very pure white fruit emerges. A stunning purity and subtlety before a raft of power, assisted by the age of the vines (50+) as well as the terroir. Will still be tasting this when I reach Beaune! Drink from 2030-2040. Tasted Oct 2024.

Star rating : 5 ★

100pt score : 94-97

RED

2023, Pommard " Cuvée Carmen ", Domaine Latour-Giraud

A medium crimson red. Prettily perfumed, ripe enough flavours. Some cherry. A little harder at the finish, with firm tannins. A slight sweetness to the fruit at the finish. If you extract the fruit you get the tannins, so this is a compromise. Nice length. Drink from 2029-2034. Tasted Oct 2024.

Star rating : ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ 100pt score : 87-89

2023, Meursault Caillerets 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

An exuberant red berry fruit bouquet is followed by a huge amount of fruit in the mouth too, thoroughly but sensibly extracted, finishing on rich strawberries with good acidity. Two barrels made of this rare appellation. Drink from 2028-2034. Tasted Oct 2024.

Star rating : ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 100pt score : 90-92

2023, Pommard Refène 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

A deep crimson in colour, with a more savoury, blood red bouquet. Generous fruit on the palate, though also a much more significant oak take up. Tannins, acidity, rather an old fashioned Pommard but with plenty of muscle. Some crunch to the fruit too. "Plenitude and noble tannins" suggests Jean-Pierre. Drink from 2030-2035. Tasted Oct 2024.

Star rating : ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ 100pt score : 89-92

2023, Volnay Clos des Chênes 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

On the darker side of imperial purple. A full on dark raspberry fruit, possible some slightly raisiny cherries as well, extraction quite evident on the palate but the fruit is holding its own. Acidity is slightly more evident than tannins, this is a wine which will need plenty of time in the cellar, not usually the case in 2023. Drink from 2032-2037. Tasted Oct 2024.

Star rating : ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ 100pt score : 88-92