

JASPER MORRIS

Inside Burgundy

Written: December 2022

Meursault

My first thought in looking at this list of Meursault producers, is what an extraordinary wealth of talent there is in the village – and there are a few more of the same quality not included in this survey. One producer in particular absolutely stood out for me in 2021, but I will leave you to read through the reports to find out who it is.

In terms of the 2021 vintage, Meursault suffered like every village from the frost, but the pattern was rather different from 2016 when cloud cover (or not) defined which vineyard did or did not suffer. The most damage in 2021 hit the band of hillside vineyards which includes most of the 1ers Crus and quite a few of our favourite village sites such as Narvaux, Tesson and Chevalières.

DOMAINE LATOUR-GIRAUD



Jean-Pierre Latour is my hero this year for two reasons. Firstly, though he has made red wines which can compare with those made by his colleagues, he does not feel that they are worthy of the current pricing in Burgundy, and so has declassified most of them – 1er Cru down to village and a Pommard plot offered as Bourgogne Rouge. He wants the quality to be in phase with the appellation on the label. Thank you Jean-Pierre. And secondly because his range of white wines was just about the finest I tasted through the autumn months! The whites and reds are day and night, to employ his words.

Picking started on 18th September, with red yields around 18 hl/ha, Bourgogne Blanc and village Meursault 13-14 hl/h and most of the 1ers Crus just half that. If yields had been higher, then oidium and rot would have been a much greater problem, thinks Jean-Pierre. All wines had been racked to tank in August (white) or early October (red). The whites have received a classic elevage with 20% new wood, though less lees stirring than in some years. The reds have 15% new wood. Unusually, the reds will be bottle first for this vintage. He plans to keep good CO2 levels in both colours.

White

2021, Bourgogne Chardonnay, Domaine Latour-Giraud

88-90 ★★★★★

Clean mid yellow. Takes time but some attractive fruit begins to come out. Then an extraordinary concentration, fresh pears. I could believe senior vineyards were declassified in to this but not the case. Very long finish. And a zesty fresh finish. Drink from 2024-2027. Tasted: November 2022

★ **5 STAR WINE**

2021, Meursault "Cuvée Charles Maxime", Domaine Latour-Giraud

★★★★★ 92-95

23 barrels including small quantities of declassified 1er Crus Perrières, Bouchères and Porusots which could not be made separately. Full bright yellow with a little green in the background. A touch of bacon fat here, but very soon it is the pure full fat fruit of Meursault which comes to the fore. A fine volume of dense white fruit, it may not go full butter and hazelnuts, but seekers after a properly classical Meursault will get their money's worth here. Fine fresh long finish with some ripe greengage and a ripe citrus touch. Drink from 2025-2031. Tasted: November 2022

★ **5 STAR WINE**

2021, Meursault Les Narvaux, Domaine Latour-Giraud

★★★★★ 92-96

7 hl/ha. A paler fresher colour with a magical mineral intensity. A little touch of coconut. There is a dancing quality about this wine, without sacrificing intensity. Certainly not! Once in this mouth there is a really intense core of pure white fruit with a mineral energy behind. Superb stuff! Drink from 2026-2032. Tasted: November 2022

2021, Meursault Charmes 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

91-94 ★★★★★

Pure fresh yellow. The bouquet shows the voluptuous side of Charmes wearing a chiffon of oak. Some fresh lime notes provide the energy, while the body of clean white stone fruit is the main course. Too much body just to be called racy. I don't think this will take an enormous amount of time to come round, but all is there. Drink from 2026-2033. Tasted: November 2022

★ **5 STAR WINE**

2021, Meursault Genevrières 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud

★★★★★ 93-96

A fine clear lemon yellow. Here the fruit and the oak are absolutely intertwined on the nose. A significant volume of fruit is suggested, as well as undeniable class. There is a heady mix here, but it works really well together there is almost a coating of a waxy velvet, and a very long finish. Ripe apples, maybe some white peaches, and the usual fresh citrus note to keep the finish fresh. Drink from 2027-2035. Tasted: November 2022

2021, Puligny-Montrachet Champs Canet 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud 91-93 ★★★★★

Three barrels! A fresh mid lemon and lime colour. More floral elegance here à la Puligny. Still ripe and sensual behind, but this is more typical perhaps of a 2020. A touch of bacon fat alongside the white fruit, plenty of energy, good acidity, the finish still fine if less compelling than the Meursault. Suggestion of honeysuckle. Drink from 2026-2032. Tasted: November 2022

★ 5 STAR WINE

2021, Meursault Genevrières "Cuvée des Pierre" 1er Cru, Domaine Latour-Giraud ★★★★★ 93-97

A glowing lemon colour with lime notes. Lickable stones immediately appear on the nose, this feels like Genevrières-plus but not on steroids. Immense waves of flavour yet the austere tension is more in play than a huge volume of fruit – it will take years for all that to emerge. So much resides at the back of the palate but the volume will only come later. Fractional youthful bitterness. Magnums only. Drink from 2027-2037. Tasted: November 2022

Red

2021, Bourgogne Pinot Noir, Domaine Latour-Giraud 87-88 ★★★★★

All the fruit is in fact declassified Pommard. Medium deep red crimson. A darker more sombre type of pinot, but pinot nonetheless. Pure red fruit, strawberry, nothing green here. This will be attractive to drink in a couple of years. He would rather make a very good Bourgogne – as he has – than a Pommard that might not quite cut it Drink from 2024-2027. Tasted: November 2022

2021, Volnay Cuvée des Chênes, Domaine Latour-Giraud 88-90 ★★★★★

Just the two barrels of declassified Clos des Chênes. Quite a deep sombre red. This has the raw peppery finish of the vintage, all strawberry fruit, more density than the Bourgogne, and indeed significant persistence. Some tannins here, a bit of muscle in the background. Quite a long finish. Drink from 2025-2028. Tasted: November 2022

2021, Pommard " Cuvée Carmen ", Domaine Latour-Giraud 88-91 ★★★★★

A part is his better plot of village Pommard, the rest is declassified 1er cru Refène. There's a bit of bacon fat here, a little wildness. A slightly darker crimson colour, a firmer, sturdier bouquet. Higher gas at the moment. Plenty of energy on the palate, less peppery, good acid balance, a darker edge to the strawberry, and considerable persistence. Drink from 2026-2029. Tasted: November 2022