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Domaine Latour-Giraud (Meursault)

2015	Meursault "Caillerets" 1er	red	(88-90)
2015	Pommard - Cuvée Carmen	red	88
2015	Pommard "La Refène" 1er	red	(88-91)
2015	Volnay "Clos des Chênes" 1er	red	(89-91)

Jean-Pierre Latour told me that 2015 is an "easy-to-like and easy-to-understand vintage that should be very popular with consumers. The major challenge for both the reds and the whites was to preserve the freshness as it would have been easy to produce fat and heavy wines. I chose to begin picking on the 3rd of September but in hindsight I'm not altogether sure that beginning even a few days earlier might have been better. While the fruit was notably ripe and ultra-clean, there was unfortunately not much of it and worse, there wasn't much juice in the berries. There was a relatively high incidence of shatter and the July heat definitely caused some evaporation. I would put our net yields at -30 to -40% less than an average vintage, which is to say between 25 to 30 hl/ha. As to the wines, I would compare them to a more concentrated version of 2009 but with slightly higher alcohol levels. As to the reds, I really like them and would sign up for a vintage like this anytime." I found the quality of the Latour reds to be largely consistent with what I found in general in the southern Côte. (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, both UK).

2015 Pommard - Cuvée Carmen: An earthy and pepper-inflected nose reflects notes of red and dark currant that flashes discreet nuances of spice. The succulent, round and nicely intense medium weight flavors deliver fine length on the ever-so-slightly warm finish. This is mostly built on its fruit yet that won't prevent it from aging if that's your preference. 88/2020+

2015 Meursault "Caillerets": A ripe and agreeably fresh combination of black cherry, violet and plum aromas slides gracefully into the nicely voluminous flavors that exhibit slightly more minerality and structure on the balanced and lingering finale. This too should drink well on the younger side. (88-90)/2021+

2015 Pommard "La Refène": Relatively firm reduction presently renders the nose difficult to assess. On the plus side there is both good verve and detail to the refined medium-bodied flavors thanks to the fine grain of the supporting tannins on the ever-so-mildly warm finish. This isn't particularly dense but it is certainly very pretty. (88-91)/2021+

2015 Volnay "Clos des Chênes": A spicy, ripe and broad-ranging nose displays notes of red and dark currant, violet, plum and a whiff of smoke. The slightly bigger and richer flavors also possess a notably fine mouth feel before culminating in a more mineral-driven finish that exhibits lovely complexity. This succulent yet entirely serious effort could be enjoyed young thanks to the generous dry extract but it should be capable of adding much more depth with a few years of age. (89-91)/2022+