

Domaine Latour-Giraud

Jean-Pierre Latour began harvesting in 2016 on September 22, with crop levels especially low in his lesser village sites. But some of his premier crus were also hard-hit by frost: Latour will not offer Poruzots or Bouchères from this vintage, and there's much less Charmes than usual (but his prime holding of Meursault Genevrières was untouched, producing a larger crop than in 2015). Potential alcohols were in the fairly high 13% to 13.5% range and the malos finished by the end of March. Latour describes 2016 as "in a classic style" but noted that "nothing was as easy as in 2015." The newer crop of wines has less stuffing than the '15s and Latour did more *batonnage* with the '16s, especially for the vineyards that produced larger crop levels. "The plentitude has taken longer to come," he told me, and he's unlikely to bottle the '16s early. Latour noted that he was surprised by the pHs (around 3.18) and acidity levels (in the neighborhood of 4.8 grams per liter) in the '16s at the end of their malos, adding that the wines are very well balanced.

Interestingly, Latour told me that, early on, he was more afraid that his 2015s would be fragile wines than he was a year later with the '16s. He did not believe that the '15s could support a long *élevage*, and he bottled them in February in an attempt to preserve fruit and balance. He also did less de-gassing of the wines at bottling than normal in order to keep higher levels of CO₂, but finished them with the same amount of free sulfur (40 ppm) as usual, using "the densest possible" 25-millimeter corks. "The sun gave these wines their sweetness and fat," he opined. He considers 2015 to be a more concentrated version of 2009, "but both vintages have an easiness."

From 2016 & 2015 White Burgundy (Sep 2017) by Stephen Tanzer

Year	Vintage	(Hover for Commentary)		Tasting Notes	Score	Author	Drinking Window	Release Price	Review Date
		Producer	Name						
2016	Domaine Latour-Giraud	Meursault Cuvée Charles Maxime	Medium yellow. Ripe scents and flavors of apricot, nuts and honey. Salty, rich, dry wine with surprisingly brisk acidity. Finishes tactile and fresh.	(87-89)	Stephen Tanzer		Not Available	Sep 2017	
			-- Stephen Tanzer						
2016	Domaine Latour-Giraud	Meursault Les Narvaux	Lighter yellow than the Charles Maxime but a bit hazy. Deep, rich nose conveys good lemon-limey lift. This, too, boasts a strong impression of acidity, with salty minerality contributing to its tactile, chewy texture. But this wine still needs the rounding influence of more <i>élevage</i> .	(88-91)	Stephen Tanzer		Not Available	Sep 2017	
			-- Stephen Tanzer						
2016	Domaine Latour-Giraud	Meursault Charmes 1er Cru	(13.8% natural alcohol): Healthy light yellow. Musky stone and citrus fruit aromas are complemented by vanilla and hazelnut. Distinctly riper and sweeter than the Narvaux, with classic Meursault fullness to its flavors of stone fruits and spices. Nothing off-vintage about this dense, oily, voluminous wine, whose impression of <i>sucrosité</i> (it's actually carrying close to 2.5 grams per liter of residual sugar) is nicely leavened by incisive acidity (4.8 grams per liter). Latour told me that when the sugars got down to about 2.5 grams in 2016, he chilled his cellar because he didn't want higher alcohol "to burn the wines." He felt that without a bit of residual sweetness, the wines would be too dry for their levels of alcohol.	(90-93)	Stephen Tanzer		Not Available	Sep 2017	
			-- Stephen Tanzer						
2016	Domaine Latour-Giraud	Meursault Genevrières 1er Cru	Pale, bright yellow. A musky essence of Meursault on the nose and palate: stone fruits, lime and hazelnut, plus a hint of oak char. This very tactile, saline wine shows less early sweetness than the Charmes (it's a bit less advanced today) but it's more complex and profound even if its components are not yet in perfect harmony. The long finish leaves behind a note of honey. This deep wine boasts terrific stuffing and should be a beauty.	(91-94)	Stephen Tanzer		Not Available	Sep 2017	
			-- Stephen Tanzer						
2016	Domaine Latour-Giraud	Meursault Perrières 1er Cru	(aging in two 2014 barrels and one new one): Bright yellow. Ripe pear, peach and minerals on the nose, complicated by hazelnut and oatmeal nuances. Very plush, even glyceric wine with terrific fruit sweetness--although Latour noted that this <i>cuvée</i> finished its alcoholic fermentation drier and earlier than most of his other '16s, by the Hospices de Beaune weekend in mid-November. Seems a bit soft--even exotic--for Perrières, not to mention more evolved than the Genevrières; Latour mentioned that he may bottle it earlier. Takes on a more saline character with aeration, with a touch of citrus zest bitterness giving grip to the finish.	(90-92)	Stephen Tanzer		Not Available	Sep 2017	
			-- Stephen Tanzer						
2016	Domaine Latour-Giraud	Puligny-Montrachet Champs-Canet 1er Cru	(these vines were harvested first in 2016, with 13.8% potential alcohol): Medium yellow. Very ripe aromas of peach, apricot and macadamia nut, plus a whiff of barrel char. Less harmonious and stuffed than the Perrières, with the impression of near- <i>surmaturité</i> on the nose leavened in the mouth by bright citrusy acidity. Finishes firm but a touch disjointed, with a slight bitterness. Latour told me that 2016 was not an easy vintage for this wine.	(89-91)	Stephen Tanzer		Not Available	Sep 2017	
			-- Stephen Tanzer						

Year	Domaine	Vineyard	Description	Score	Reviewer	Year	Price	Availability
2016	Domaine Latour-Giraud	Meursault Genevrières Cuvée des Pierre 1er Cru	(Latour made four barrels, vs. a normal three): Medium bright yellow. Deep aromas of musky peach, <i>mirabelle</i> , menthol and flint; there's something a bit <i>sauvage</i> here in a positive way. Dense, plush and sweet, displaying huge fruit in the context of the vintage. Pineapple, ripe peach and spice flavors are nicely framed by lively integrated acidity (actually a bit higher than the <i>cuvée classique</i> , which has 4.8 grams per liter) and buffered by dry extract. Finishes spicy and very long, with an impression of reserve. This youthfully laid-back wine still needs more <i>élevage</i> and should evolve slowly in bottle. Latour says it's "at point zero today, between oxidation and reduction," adding that the Puligny is "floral and joyous while this wine is more upright and rigorous but not austere."	(92-94)	Stephen Tanzer	Not Available	Sep 2017	
-- Stephen Tanzer								
2015	Domaine Latour-Giraud	Meursault Cuvée Charles Maxime	(bottled in January of this year): Healthy bright yellow. Exotic on the nose following Latour's '16s, offering aromas of apricot, lichee and smoke. Silky, round and sweet; almost voluptuous but given shape by decent acidity. Clearly dry but displays the <i>sucrosité</i> of the vintage. A touch of finishing bitterness gives shape and moderate grip to this rather powerful village wine. Some tasters will love this right now, as it's not at all closed.	89	Stephen Tanzer	2018 - 2023	\$70.00	Sep 2017
-- Stephen Tanzer								
2015	Domaine Latour-Giraud	Meursault Les Narvaux	Very ripe, musky aromas of nectarine, apricot and smoke, plus a buttery nuance. Fat and plush in the mouth, conveying an impression of <i>surmaturité</i> but also enlivened by sound acidity. Spreads out to saturate the mouth on the slightly phenolic, edgy finish; a very horizontal style but without the typical grip and verve of this bottling. Could use a bit more shape and lift.	90	Stephen Tanzer	2019 - 2025	\$78.00	Sep 2017
-- Stephen Tanzer								
2015	Domaine Latour-Giraud	Meursault Bouchères 1er Cru	Bright yellow. Very ripe but reticent aromas of stone fruits, hazelnut and charred oak are at the limit of <i>surmaturité</i> . Sweet and pliant, conveying an almost honeyed quality to its peach, apricot and spice flavors, but not as thick or open-knit as I would have expected from this bottling in a very warm vintage. Slightly spiky acidity gives shape to the middle palate, with the finish showing a faint alcoholic burn that gives it a positive dryness.	90	Stephen Tanzer	2019 - 2025	\$95.00	Sep 2017
-- Stephen Tanzer								
2015	Domaine Latour-Giraud	Meursault Poruzots 1er Cru	Medium yellow. Candied stone fruits, butterscotch and smoke on the reticent nose. Plush, seamless and moderately sweet; not particularly large-scaled but conveys a fine-grained texture to its flavors of orange juice, peach and spices as well as good balancing acidity. Finishes dusty and firm. Displays a bit more inner-mouth tension than most of the foregoing samples but distinctly reserved in the early going.	91	Stephen Tanzer	2019 - 2026	\$105.00	Sep 2017
-- Stephen Tanzer								
2015	Domaine Latour-Giraud	Meursault Charmes 1er Cru	Bright medium yellow. Slightly subdued scents of ripe stone fruits, oatmeal, hazelnut and menthol. Sweet and pliant in the mouth, showing lovely floral lift and surprising acidity to its fruit-driven flavors of pineapple and ripe peach. Lively more than large-scaled, this suave, fully ripe wine is a bit muffled today but is not at all exaggerated. Finishes with lovely purity, cut and length.	92	Stephen Tanzer	2019 - 2026	\$113.00	Sep 2017
-- Stephen Tanzer								
2015	Domaine Latour-Giraud	Meursault Genevrières 1er Cru	Bright medium yellow. Reticent musky nose hints at citrus fruits, white peach, grilled nuts and butter. Soft, fairly dry, broad and rich; shows more fat than the Charmes but also possesses well-integrated acidity to frame its peach and apricot flavors. In a distinctly dry style, and without quite the early balance of the Charmes. This wine will need some time for its slightly phenolic finish to soften a bit.	92	Stephen Tanzer	2020 - 2027	\$118.00	Sep 2017
-- Stephen Tanzer								
2015	Domaine Latour-Giraud	Meursault Perrières 1er Cru	Good medium-deep yellow. Rather closed aromas of pineapple, crushed stone and smoky oak. Concentrated flavors of apple and orange oil show good lift and supporting minerality. Sharply chiseled, firmly built yet harmonious already, this dense, tactile wine finishes firm and long, with a zesty rocky quality and excellent grip. Serious, very well-made Perrières with no easy sweetness.	93	Stephen Tanzer	2021 - 2028	\$130.00	Sep 2017
-- Stephen Tanzer								

2015	Domaine Latour-Giraud	Puligny-Montrachet Champs-Canet 1er Cru	Bright yellow. Very clean scents of lemon and orange oil lifted by a note of white flowers and accented by spicy oak. Juicy, fine-grained and not at all overly ripe, with its flavors of peach, apricot and lemon nicely framed by lemony acidity. Not especially opulent or fat--it seemed thicker from barrel a year ago--but shows a lighter touch than most of the Latour-Giraud Meursaults today. This wine is actually rather backward on the juicy, long finish. I like this!	92	Stephen Tanzer	2020-2028	\$133.00	Sep 2017
-- Stephen Tanzer								

2015	Domaine Latour-Giraud	Meursault Genevrières Cuvée des Pierre 1er Cru	(aged in 33% new oak, the highest percentage among these 2015s): Bright light yellow. Nectarine, lemon, hazelnut and smoky oak aromas are subtle and perfumed for the year. Juicy and intense, offering a captivating sugar/acid balance and excellent definition to its very ripe stone fruit and saline mineral flavors. More tightly wound than the "regular" Genevrières, even a bit youthfully aggressive today, but the long, structured, slowly rising finish displays terrific flavor intensity and salty grip. I might have picked this wine blind as a Perrières.	93+	Stephen Tanzer	2021-2030	\$150.00	Sep 2017
-- Stephen Tanzer								