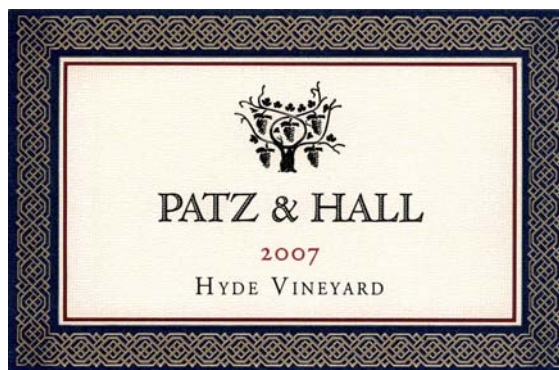




PATZ & HALL

**Snooth**



## **The Secret to Patz & Hall's Success: How one California winery found their way**

“In California’s hyper-competitive wine world, it pays to have an advantage. Some producers try and spread their weight around by offering every wine under the sun. Others focus on doing a few things and doing them well. Patz & Hall has chosen the latter route, and this group of four friends has found that crafting distinctive Chardonnay and, perhaps more importantly, Pinot Noir gives them that distinct advantage that one needs to succeed.

Patz & Hall really are able to capture something special in their wines and unlike many single-vineyard bottlers, each vineyard designated wine has a unique character that speaks as much about the winemaker as it does about the soils from which it sprung. These are certainly wines worth looking for, made in a style that seems to be a middle ground toward which many of the finest producers have gravitated over the past decade: Richly-fruited and noticeably oaked, yet with balanced complexity and depth.

**Continue reading for my favorites from Patz & Hall's killer line-up.”**

### **2007 Hyde Vineyard Carneros Chardonnay**

“This is such a gorgeous Chardonnay, full of ripe fruit that remains crisp, transparent, and wonderfully weightless in the mouth. It’s a great wine for summer fare and would be a fantastic match for scallops and shellfish. Like the Hudson this shows quite a bit of smokiness but the fruit is brighter and the aromatics more focused with notes of sweet almond, flowers, chalk and melon fruit all weaving their way through the bouquet. This is a bit small-scale in the mouth but clear as a bell with a lean, linear feel to it. There are glints of mineral and almond up front, which are followed by rich, fresh, almost peachy and yellow apple fruit flavors on the mid-palate. Real energy on the long mineral finish, with a touch of creaminess adding some welcome softness. This is so pure and transparent with deliciously crystalline fruit.”

**92 Points**

- Gregory Dal Piaz  
April 13, 2010