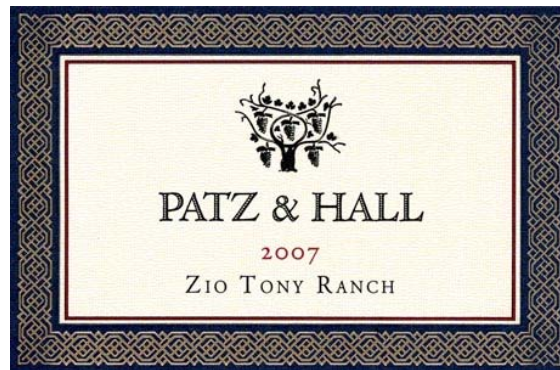




PATZ & HALL

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 Zio Tony Ranch Russian River Valley Chardonnay

“Very aromatic with a fair amount of smoky, nutty oak on the nose over a core of nicely compact, nicely ripe apricot and green plummy fruit with a touch of yeastiness. Really lovely texture in the mouth, soft and broad but supported by a really firm spine of acidity giving this the taut feel of a sail under wind. There’s a touch of tannin from the oak and a nice edge of minerality that adds cut across the mid-palate. The fruit pops on the backend with green apple and lightly dried orchard fruit tones that extend onto the long finish which features delicately-spiced wood tones. Great balance, deft use of oak, and a fine combination of richness and freshness make this a real winner.”

93 Points

- Gregory Dal Piaz
April 13, 2010