

Tony Hale's L.A. Home Is a "Cozy, Sit-by-the-Fire" Refuge

The actor and his makeup-artist spouse dole out a healthy dose of Southern hospitality in their Nantucket-inspired house

By Julie Vadnal

Photography by Dan Arnold

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When it's finally safe to release ourselves from social distancing and entertain with friends again, Tony and Martel Hale would like to have you over. In fact, the Emmy winners (she for makeup, and he for *Veep*) designed their three-bedroom Los Angeles home, where they live with their daughter, Loy, to be just the type of welcoming respite where their loved ones can walk in, kick off their shoes, watch an episode of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, and maybe even stay the night. (There's a guest house with a Murphy bed for that.)

And should you be the lucky recipient of a dinner party invitation at the Hales', the Southern pair (she's from Anniston, Alabama; he grew up in Tallahassee, Florida) probably serve up cheese straws and a one-pan rosemary-lemon chicken, a *Southern Living* recipe that's their go-to. "We love to have people visit," Tony says. "When someone walks into the house, we want them to feel joy. There's a cozy, sit-by-the-fire, have-a-glass-of-wine vibe to the house." Who among us couldn't use a little of that right now?

When the couple moved into the Studio City ranch house five years ago, they called upon friend and Martin & Brockett interior designer Jason Martin, who had worked on their first house in Griffith Park, to give it a homey feel. “I wanted it pretty, and I wanted it Southern; a bit modern, and a bit traditional,” says Martel in her Alabama drawl. And a relaxed feel was key: “I remember saying I don’t want to sacrifice comfort for something just being cool or looking good,” Tony says.



“My favorite color is yellow because it exudes so much joy,” Tony says of the Granada tiles in the guest house bathroom. Does he ever go over there just to shower? “You know what? I do actually,” he says.