

Biography of Darryl Brooker

General Manager, Mission Hill Family Estate



Photo by: James O'Mara and Kate Ryan

Darryl Brooker is General Manager of Mission Hill Family Estate and Sebastian Farms. In this role he is responsible for all aspects of winemaking, viticulture, and guest experiences at Mission Hill Family Estate. He also oversees Sebastian Farms, the von Mandl Family's collection of exceptional estate vineyards located throughout the Okanagan Valley.

Australian-born Brooker is driven by a single passion: To produce wines of incredible depth and unprecedented quality that reflect the unique terroir of the Okanagan and can stand alongside the best in the world.

He joined Mission Hill as chief winemaker for the 2015 harvest following his successful five year tenure as lead winemaker at CedarCreek Estate Winery,

where he worked tirelessly to elevate the quality of the wines in the portfolio by placing careful attention to all aspects of viticulture and winemaking.

Prior to this he began his 20+ year career in winemaking at Mountadam Vineyards in Barossa Valley, one of Australia's pioneer Chardonnay makers, followed by senior winemaking roles at Villa Maria Estate in Hawkes Bay and Marlborough, New Zealand. With the desire to channel his career in a new direction, he relocated to the Niagara Region in Ontario where he led the effort to produce award-winning Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Riesling at Flat Rock Cellars.

Darryl holds a Bachelor of Applied Science - Wine Science degree from Charles Sturt University in Australia and he also has a Wine Business diploma from Adelaide University. Beyond wine, Darryl is active as a mountain trail runner and he enjoys wine travel with his family.