

— News Release —

## Canadian Winery wins only North American Gold Medal

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Estate Chardonnay honoured by top French competition

**Westbank, British Columbia – March 21, 2001:** Mission Hill Family Estate proprietor Anthony von Mandl and winemaker John Simes are very honoured to announce the winery's 1999 Estate Chardonnay has received the only gold medal awarded to a North American wine during this year's eighth annual Chardonnay du Monde Competition. Judging took place March 15, 16, 17 and 18 at Château des Ravatys, the wine estate of the Pasteur Institute in France's Burgundy wine region.

"This is a very special day," says winemaker Simes. "To be recognized by a competition of this international calibre is extremely rewarding. My team and I share this achievement with everyone who works at Mission Hill Family Estate."



Officially certified by the Office International de la Vigne et du Vin (OIV), the competition is an international comparison of wines produced from the Chardonnay vine variety. This year just under 1000 wines were sampled from 35 countries, resulting in only 19 gold medals being awarded to wineries from nine countries around the world.

The 1999 Estate Chardonnay will be released during the Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival next month. Only 660 cases were produced from estate-grown grapes harvested on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1999. This is the first Estate Chardonnay produced by the winery. It was 90% fermented in French oak barrels. Vibrant and sophisticated, this cellar worthy wine delivers ripe fruit flavours, a lemony undercurrent and a long, intricate aftertaste. The wine will be available at the winery, in private wine stores and select restaurants throughout British Columbia.

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For more information on Mission Hill Family Estate or to schedule an interview, please contact Corinne Kovalsky at 604-264-4046 or Ingo Grady at 250-768-6441.