

Les Dames d'Escoffier Announces Mission Hill Family Estate Scholarship Recipients for 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2009 (Vancouver BC) - Les Dames d'Escoffier BC Chapter (LDEI BC) and Mission Hill Family Estate recognized the wealth of talent in the local culinary industry when they awarded scholarships at the Les Dames d'Escoffier Induction and Scholarship Dinner last night held at the Boneta Restaurant in Vancouver.

"At Mission Hill Family Estate, we value food and wine in daily life, and are committed to the pursuit of excellence in oenology, gastronomy, and hospitality. British Columbian wines stand equal to the world's best, and fostering educational opportunities for local enthusiasts enables ongoing talent in the art of fine cuisine and wine. We are honoured to support Les Dames here in BC with the presentation of this award to two promising candidates pursuing their education in the industry," said Anthony von Mandl, Founder & Proprietor, Mission Hill Family Estate.

LDEI BC President Cindy Evetts is pleased to have the support of a prestigious winery like Mission Hill Family Estate for the fourth consecutive year. "Wine is such an integral part of the culinary arts, and the assistance from Mission Hill Family Estate, a leader in the Canadian wine industry, is recognition of this. Les Dames is thrilled to be able to offer our applicants scholarships to be used specifically for wine education."

Mission Hill Family Estate is pleased to present the two awards this year to:

Martha McAvity who has worked in a variety of hospitality settings in Canada and Australia. She has completed levels 1 & 2 of the International Sommelier Guild's Diploma program and levels 1, 2, & 3 of the Wine and Spirits Education Trust. While she currently works at The Vancouver Club as a server, she plans to start both the WSET Diploma program and also to pursue her ISG Diploma in fall 2009.

Kami Lee Robb who started in the industry as a waitress and has gone on to complete the International Sommelier Guild's Diploma program. She also teaches classes for the Wine and Spirits Education Trust and is currently enrolled in the WSET Diploma program at the Art Institute of Vancouver. In the future she hopes to offer private wine seminars and is currently writing a book about wine as well as in the process of negotiating a weekly wine column with a BC magazine publisher.

About Les Dames d'Escoffier

Les Dames d'Escoffier is an association of professional women devoted to promoting the understanding, appreciation and knowledge of food, wine and the arts of the table. We also supply advice and scholarship assistance to women as they pursue careers in food, wine, hospitality, nutrition, food technology or other related areas. Awards are based on merit and ability and vary in amount according to the program they support.

About Mission Hill Family Estate

Mission Hill Family Estate is world renowned for its award-winning wines, stunning setting and architecture, and its *Cuisine de Terroir*-based Terrace Restaurant. The winery's vineyards are located in five distinct growing regions of British Columbia's Okanagan Valley. Reflective of the origin and unique character of the Valley and of the careful 'pruning to bottle' program, Oculus, our signature Bordeaux-inspired wine, represents the pinnacle in premium winemaking. Proprietor Anthony von Mandl and winemaker John Simes produce elegant internationally acclaimed wines with New World flavours and Old World refinement from this incomparable lakeside mountaintop winery. Visit www.missionhillwinery.com for more information.

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