



Mission Hill Family Estate Celebrates Artistic and Epicurean Excellence
Summer Season Commences with Renowned Artists, Cuisine and Wine



West Kelowna, Okanagan Valley, British Columbia – May 20, 2009 – Mission Hill Family Estate is pleased to announce our second annual summer series of cultural and culinary activities, which commenced with the season opening of the internationally acclaimed Terrace restaurant on May 15, 2009. A series of twilight concerts featuring prominent artists will again be offered to the community at the winery. They afford a unique opportunity to enjoy a live performance in an intimate setting. The natural grass outdoor amphitheatre provides a stunning view of the Monashee Mountains and Lake Okanagan, in an unrivalled natural environment. These additions crown a stellar start to the year, with prestigious accolades garnered for the Terrace, honoured again by both *Vancouver Magazine* and *Urban Diner* as the best Okanagan winery restaurant in their annual award ceremonies this spring, and named by Alex Gill of the *Globe & Mail* as the best meal she's eaten all year, "a destination lunch not to be missed".

New to the Terrace this year, will be a special late afternoon Tapas menu, of small plates in keeping with our culinary philosophy of Cuisine de Terroir, a seasonal and regional approach to dining that is meticulously crafted around the wines and local artisanal ingredients. Under the direction of Chef Matthew Batey, the Terrace is open for lunch May-September with the addition of afternoon tapas beginning June 1st. Guests enjoy culinary creations al fresco with breath-taking views of the winery's courtyards, vineyards and spectacular Lake Okanagan. Reservations for the Terrace and special events at the winery can be made at www.missionhillwinery.com.

Another first for the Okanagan Valley and Mission Hill will be a Chef's Table Society Dinner on the evening of Saturday September 5. A fundraiser for the society, which is a collaborative effort by province-wide chefs to provide innovative and sustainable programs that inspire, educate and nurture chefs, it will be the society's first initiative in the Valley. The dinner for over 100 guests will be offered at the winery by many of Canada's top culinary talents donating their time and epicurean skills to the cause including: John Bishop of Bishop's, Vikram Vij of Vij's, Pino Posteraro of Cioppino's, Hidekazu Tojo of Tojo's, Matt Batey of Mission Hill, Rob Feenie of Cactus Club, and several other highly acclaimed BC chefs. Tickets and more information will be listed on the Mission Hill website on June 1.

Educational workshops are also being offered at the winery this spring, summer and fall including culinary and wine courses such as the Essentials of Grilling & Barbecue on June 28th, an ideal gift for father's day. And Sommelier Saturdays, led by our Sommelier Jesse Harnden, which are a new series of tastings that will help hone your taste buds and refine your palate with a comparative tasting of Mission Hill wines alongside international counterparts of various regions and styles.

The concerts planned for the summer include Kris Kristofferson, the popular singer/songwriter, as well as the Annual Midsummer Magic Fundraising Gala for the Okanagan Symphony. More artists will be added throughout the season with additional details available online. Special dinner packages to celebrate the cultural festivities will be offered as well as a concessions stand open for purchasing gourmet picnic meals and Mission Hill's award-winning wines. Mission Hill wine club members will receive front-of-the-line priority for concert and event reservations, see www.missionhillwineclub.com.

"The culinary and cultural offerings at the winery provide an international caliber experience to guests visiting the Okanagan Valley in an idyllic setting. We are proud to support the arts with our twilight concerts, and the epicurean and wine classes are part of our ongoing commitment to the advancement of gastronomy and viticulture excellence," said Anthony von Mandl, Founder & Proprietor, Mission Hill Family Estate.

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. Honoured as one of the Top Five Winery Restaurants globally, the restaurant and epicurean program is led by our culinary team, Chefs Michael Allemeier, CCC and Matthew Batey. 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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