



Our Wines:

Five Vineyards  
Reserve  
S.L.C. (*Select Lot Collection*)  
Oculus  
Icewine

Founder/Proprietor:

Anthony von Mandl

Winemaker:

John Simes



The Okanagan Valley (Pacific Northwest):

Nestled between the Coast Mountains to the west and the Monashee Mountains to the east, the Okanagan lies in a rain shadow. The northern extension of the Pacific Northwest wine appellation, the valley is approximately 400km east of Vancouver, in south central British Columbia. The region covers one full degree of latitude. From the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel and the Canada/US border in the south, vineyards are planted north for roughly 100km. A chain of lakes runs the length of the valley, helping moderate temperatures year round.

A distinctive geographic feature of the Okanagan Valley is that the southern area is part of the Sonoran Desert, which extends from Oliver to its point of origin in Mexico's Baja Peninsula. Warmer and more arid than Napa, the region has over an hour more daylight and a higher degree temperature than the California appellation during its peak growing season. There is also considerably less precipitation than Bordeaux and Burgundy. A tiny grape-growing region, the Okanagan Valley has 6,000 acres under vine. That's one half of one percent of California's vineyard acreage and about 14% of Washington State's grape production.

The Growing Season:

Lasting between five and a half and six months, the valley's growing season is often characterized as short and intense. Bud break usually occurs in late April and crush typically gets underway by mid-September, lasting through the third week of October. The harvest of grapes for Icewine takes place in December and January, weather permitting.

The Winery:

The winery is situated high atop Mission Hill overlooking a 145 km lake, mountains and vineyards. Visitors enter through an imposing archway, arriving in a courtyard with a 12-storey bell tower as its centerpiece. Before descending into underground barrel cellars, blasted out of volcanic rock, guests are welcomed in a reception area, home to a special Chagall tapestry.

In addition to sommelier-led wine tastings, the winery's culinary team, led by Michael Allemeier, also offers wine & food master classes and special events for private guests.

Vineyard Holdings:

Mission Hill Family Estate farms about 1,100 acres in five distinct growing regions throughout the valley. The family-owned winery has roughly 850 acres of its own and a further 250 under long-term contract with local growers. Its southern-most vineyards are located in Osoyoos, on the Canada/US border. There are also estates in east and west Oliver, a magnificent ranch in Naramata and plantings at the winery in Westbank.

Both proprietor and winemaker understand that to produce great wine, you must start with great grapes. To that end, the best clones and rootstocks have been sourced for planting. Irrigation systems, vineyard-based weather stations to monitor soil and climatic conditions and GIS mapping to determine the best individual lots for each varietal, are just some of the steps the pair has undertaken to maximize quality in the vineyards.

At the winery new presses, the construction of a dedicated premium red wine production area and expanded barrel aging are now in place to gently handle the fruit and age the wines under optimum conditions.



Mission Hill Family Estate Winery



Underground Barrel Cellars



Oliver Vineyard



Naramata Ranch Vineyard

### Wine Portfolio:

Five Vineyards (80% of production)

Reserve (15% of production)

Select Lot Collection & Oculus (5% of production)

### Varietals:

Syrah, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Petit Verdot, Malbec, Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris, Pinot Blanc, Chardonnay, Sauvignon Blanc, Semillon and Riesling (used in the production of Icewine).

### Winemaking Philosophy:

Our winemaker, John Simes, believes that balance is the most important element in wine. John also strives to produce wines with New World ripeness but Old World elegance. This is achieved in the vineyard by moderating yields to suit the vintage's weather, and harvesting at optimum ripeness. In the winery, oak is used with discretion, in a supporting role, in order to add complexity and only on wines suited to barrique fermentation and maturation.

### 2006 Harvest:

The season got off to a relatively cool yet frost-free beginning with budburst and flowering occurring under ideal conditions. Summer was an Okanagan classic with low humidity and above average heat which continued through October. Crop thinning achieved target yields and outstanding quality in the vineyards. Crush officially started on September 8th, one of the earliest on record, and finished on November 2nd when winter arrived with sub-zero temperatures. An early Icewine harvest on November 28th and 29th was the fitting conclusion to one of the best Okanagan harvests ever. With white wines demonstrating refreshing character and strength and red wines' ripeness and depth of flavour and colour, 2006 is a year to remember.

### 2005 Harvest:

Bud burst occurred several days ahead of normal, with less rain than usual. The weather turned cool and wet in June resulting in very small fruit set and limited yields but allowing for more concentrated flavours. Temperatures from summer through fall were about long-term average but cooler than the past two years in the Okanagan. To maximize flavour potential we opened canopies where necessary exposing grapes to more sunlight and allowing fruit flavours and tannins to ripen fully. Harvest began in mid-September and finished within the first week of November. On December 7 we began harvesting Riesling Icewine in our Oliver vineyards.

### Location:

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