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MISSION HILL FAMILY ESTATE WINS ‘WINERY OF THE YEAR’ AT THE 2019 WINEALIGN NATIONAL WINE AWARDS OF CANADA

Iconic Family-owned Okanagan Winery Captures an Unprecedented Fifth ‘Winery of the Year’ Title; The Most Ever in the History of Canada’s Premier Wine Competition

West Kelowna, British Columbia (August 6th, 2019) – Mission Hill Family Estate is the winner of the coveted ‘Winery of the Year’ title at the 2019 WineAlign National Wine Awards, where more than **1800 wines** were entered from **259 wineries** in Canada. In addition to the ‘Winery of the Year’ title, Mission Hill collected an unprecedented **18 medals** in the competition, including two **Platinum Medals**, six **Gold Medals** and seven **Silver Medals** for its portfolio of luxury wines.

Presented by WineAlign, the National Wine Awards of Canada is the nation’s largest and most prestigious wine competition. The rigorous judging process is led by the most respected wine writers, educators and sommeliers in the country who bestowed top honours on Mission Hill for the fifth time in the history of the competition.

*“The ‘Winery of the Year’ designation is as big as it gets in Canadian wine,” said **David Lawrason, co-Chairman of the National Wine Awards.** “We are very impressed that the performance of Mission Hill Family Estate led all others in 2019 with an incredible 18 medals. Never in the history of this competition has a winning winery amassed such an array of medals that range across wine styles, grape varieties and price points.”*

Commenting on the award **Mission Hill Family Estate Proprietor Anthony von Mandl, O.C., O.B.C.** said: *“Winning Canadian Winery of the Year for the fifth time is hugely exciting, especially as Canada has never had as many wineries making such excellent wines across the country. A number of years ago, we took a bold decision to farm 100% of our own grapes and are now doing so organically. This level of commitment to the land enables our teams to push the boundaries of viticulture and winemaking in the Okanagan Valley. We see the difference in our vineyards with soils that are more alive, vines that are healthier and stronger, and grapes*

Mission Hill Family Estate Wins ‘Canadian Winery of the Year’ Award

with increased varietal character. You can literally taste the difference in each vintage of our wines. This amazing award is not only a validation of this enormous commitment, but of our passionate team in the vineyards and at Mission Hill that care so much; relentlessly raising the bar on quality year after year to establish Canada’s presence on the world wine stage.”

The ‘Winery of the Year’ title is the culmination of Mission Hill winning **Platinum Medals** for the **2017 Terroir Collection Jagged Rock Vineyard Chardonnay** and **2017 Perpetua Chardonnay**, and **Gold and Silver Medals** for the **2016 Quatrain**, **2016 Compendium**, **2016 Prospectus Pinot Noir**, and several vintages from **Mission Hill’s Terroir Collection** and **Reserve Tier**, wines that are elegant, balanced and reflect Mission Hill’s commitment to winemaking excellence.

What makes this award extra special is that it comes in the inaugural year for new **Chief Winemaker, Ben Bryant**. Ben shocked the wine community in 2018 when he left his position as Chief Winemaker at Orlando Wines in Australia to move his family across the world to join Mission Hill Family Estate in the Okanagan Valley.

When asked about the motivations for his move to Mission Hill, Ben stated: *“I was drawn to Mission Hill by what I saw as the incredible potential of the Okanagan Valley and Anthony von Mandl’s vision to create iconic wines that can stand among the best in the world. This award underscores this belief and represents a tremendous achievement for everything our team has accomplished. I am particularly pleased to see the results for our Terroir Collection, these extremely small production, single vineyard wines are the purest expression of the unique microsites and diversity of the Okanagan. Without a doubt, this is the most unique winemaking region in the world, and I am incredibly proud of our team and their commitment to producing wines of distinct character and quality.”*

A complete listing of medal winners is available at winealign.com/awards

About Mission Hill Family Estate

Mission Hill Family Estate, located in the heart of British Columbia’s pristine Okanagan Valley, offers visitors an exceptional experience in a setting of unparalleled natural beauty and extraordinary architecture. Established in 1981 by Proprietor Anthony von Mandl, O.C., O.B.C., the family-owned winery organically farms 100% of its own grapes in its family-owned vineyard estates that showcase the unique microsites and diversity of the Okanagan Valley. The resulting portfolio of internationally acclaimed fine wines celebrates the unique character of one of the world’s most exciting, emerging wine regions. www.missionhillwinery.com

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