

OCULUS

The Legacy Collection represents Proprietor Anthony von Mandl's vision to showcase the Okanagan Valley's diverse microclimates. Each wine is the pinnacle expression of more than three decades of viticulture, sustainable farming, and winemaking experience in our estate vineyards.



An OCULUS was first used by the Romans in buildings like the Pantheon - a window in a dome or wall to the outside. At Mission Hill, our oculus provides the only natural light into our underground barrel cellar, blasted out of volcanic rock that is otherwise hidden from the world. Our complex Oculus Bordeaux-style wine is the result of meticulous selection in the vineyard estate with grapes that have been specifically nurtured for this rare wine. Hand-sorted grapes are gravity-filled into specially constructed French oak fermenters before gently laying the wine to rest in individual barrels. Rich and powerful, this wine was sourced from designated Oculus blocks in our Osoyoos (83%) and Oliver (17%) vineyard estates from low-yielding vines. Aged 15 months in small French oak barrels followed by an additional 24 months in bottle prior to release. 91 barrels produced.

VINTAGE REPORT:

The 2014 vintage started well and was near perfect with some calling it the “best ever”! Winter and spring rains followed by encouraging July weather allowed the vines to focus on berry-set along with growing bunches. Hot weather in the summer months and an absence of rain saw the vine respond appropriately, with canopies in excellent balance, however, well thought out drip irrigation was a saviour this year, allowing the vines to maintain sufficient health to ripen. The dry, warm and hot summer produced good growth permitting all varieties to ripen with excellent balance. Cooler autumn months along with further assistance by rigorous leaf plucking and bunch thinning helped promote distinct varietal flavours. When the Okanagan’s warmest and driest growing season concluded on November 4th, it was judged as challenging but ultimately rewarding. Vineyards lived up to their pedigrees producing outstanding wines for the 2014 vintage.

TASTING NOTES:

2014 Oculus is generous and intense. Notes of brambleberry, Bing cherry and dark plum are complimented by hints of tobacco and spice, all held together with great structure and concentration. This vintage of Oculus is full-bodied with tremendous freshness and length on the finish. The balance of fresh fruit, structured tannins and well balanced acidity will allow this wine to age beautifully.

WINEMAKER’S NOTES:

Merlot 50%, Cabernet Franc 24%, Cabernet Sauvignon 21%, Petit Verdot 5%
Alcohol: 14.5% | Total Acidity: 5.8 g/l
Hand harvested from Osoyoos (83%) & Oliver (17%) vineyards in October 2014
Fermentation & extended maceration in small French Oak Fermenters
Aged in French oak barrels for 15 months | 91 barrels produced
Bottled on August 9, 2016

2014 OCULUS

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