



**2004 Novelty Hill Stillwater Creek Vineyard Merlot
Columbia Valley**

Tasting Notes	<p>Rich and generous, this dense, aromatic wine offers loads of expressive dark fruit, including fresh blackberry, ripe cherry and plum. The mouth-filling finish is long and silky-smooth.</p> <p><i>Mike Januik, Winemaker</i></p>
Vintage	<p>The 2004 Columbia Valley growing season was marked by a hot summer and a cool September, followed by a warm October that finished ripening the grapes late in the season. While the late ripening was tricky for some vineyards carrying a larger-than-average crop load due to a January freeze, those vineyards (including ours) that dropped crop early in the season ripened grapes beautifully and the added hang time improved flavor development.</p>
Vineyard	<p>Novelty Hill's estate vineyard, Stillwater Creek, is a steep, south-facing site on the Royal Slope of the Frenchman Hills in Washington State's Columbia Valley. With the goal of growing world-class wine grapes through careful vineyard management and innovative clonal selection, the vineyard is recognized for its unique collection of premium varietal clones, predominately Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah.</p>
Winemaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hand-picked and fermented in small lot• Gentle pumpovers during fermentation helped extract generous color and flavor while producing soft, supple tannins• Gravity racked every three months to soften and clarify the wine• Aged 18 months in 50% new, 50% one-year-old barrels; 80% French, 20% American
Blend	100 % Merlot
Case Production	334 cases
Alcohol	14.4%
pH	3.64
Total Acidity	0.53 g/100 ml