



NOVELTY HILL

**2005 Novelty Hill Merlot
Stillwater Creek Vineyard**

Tasting Notes	<p>Deep, rich black cherry, raspberry and mocha aromas and flavors linger beautifully across a long, focused finish. Refined, well-integrated tannins add to the wine's polish and grace.</p> <p>Mike Januik, Winemaker</p>
Vintage	<p>Without exception, winemakers around the state agree the 2005 vintage was a classic Columbia Valley growing season. Temperatures were warm in July and August, and then the heat backed off just enough in September to ripen fruit without rushing physiological maturity. The resulting wines are notable for their deep color, wonderful aromatics and delicious, complex flavors.</p>
Vineyards	<p>The Columbia Valley is a diverse growing region that provides a wide range of fruit expression by variety allowing the winemaker to craft rich, multi-layered wines. Just over half of the grapes used in this wine come from Novelty Hill's estate vineyard Stillwater Creek in the Frenchman Hills. Other vineyard sources contributing dimension and complexity include Alder Ridge, Weinbau and Wahluke vineyards.</p>
Winemaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A combination of punch downs and pumpovers were used to extract color and flavor during the early stages of fermentation• Fermentation was finished in barrels to integrate the fruit and oak• Gravity-racked to soften and clarify the wine• Aged 18 months in both new and one-year-old barrels, predominately French oak
Blend	<p>92% Merlot 6% Cabernet Sauvignon 2% Petit Verdot</p>
Case Production	478
Alcohol	14.4%
pH	3.64
Total Acidity	0.53g/100 ml

