



**NOVELTY HILL**

**2008 Novelty Hill Merlot  
Columbia Valley**

Tasting Notes	<p>Richly textured and seductive, layers of ripe currant, cherry, fresh raspberry and spice linger across a silky, concentrated finish.</p> <p>Mike Januik, Winemaker</p>
Vintage	<p>The 2008 growing season was cooler than usual, delaying veraison by as much as 2-3 weeks but time spent thinning crops and dropping uneven clusters over the summer kept the vines in balance and allowed the grapes to ripen beautifully. Harvest conditions in September and October were picture-perfect, marked by the Columbia Valley's typical warm fall days and cool nights, and the resulting wines boast striking flavors and juicy acidity.</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. For our 2006 Merlot, winemaker Mike Januik blended wine from Novelty Hill's estate vineyard Stillwater Creek along with select lots from Alder Ridge, Weinbau and Wahluke vineyards to add dimension and complexity to the finished wine.</p>
Winemaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A combination of punch downs and pumpovers were used to extract color and flavor during the early stages of fermentation</li><li>• Fermentation was finished in barrels to integrate the fruit and oak</li><li>• Gravity-racked to soften and clarify the wine</li><li>• Aged 18 months in both new and one-year-old barrels, predominately French oak</li></ul>
Blend	<p>95% Merlot 5% Cabernet Sauvignon</p>
Case Production	1,248
Alcohol	14.4 %
pH	3.63
Total Acidity	0.54 g/100 ml

