



NOVELTY HILL

2008 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>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. 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>97% Merlot 3% Cabernet Sauvignon</p>
Case Production	172
Alcohol	14.4%
pH	3.64
Total Acidity	0.53g/100 ml