



NOVELTY HILL

**2008 Novelty Hill Royal Slope Red
Columbia Valley**

Tasting Notes	<p>Layers of red berry, plump cherry and sweet spice aromas and flavors offer texture across the palate and persist on a refined, balanced 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>Novelty Hill's family-owned estate vineyard, Stillwater Creek, is the primary source (two-thirds) of this delicious blend. Planted on a south-facing hillside on the Royal Slope of the Frenchman Hills, Stillwater Creek is one of the steepest sites in the Columbia Valley, up to 22% in many parts of the vineyard. First planted in 2000, the vineyard has quickly distinguished itself as one of the most exciting new Columbia Valley sites of the last decade.</p>
Winemaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Twice-daily pumpovers gently extracted color and flavor from the grapes during the early stages of fermentation• Fermentation finished in barrels to integrate the fruit and oak• Gravity racked to soften and clarify the wine• Aged predominately in new and one-year-old French oak barrels for 18 months
Blend	<p>59% Merlot; 24% Syrah, 5% Cabernet Franc; 5% Sangiovese; 4% Petit Verdot; 2% Mourvèdre; 1% Cabernet Sauvignon;</p>
Alcohol	14.4%
pH	3.76
Total Acidity	0.54 grams/100 mL
Total Production	3,892 cases