



NOVELTY HILL

2002 NOVELTY HILL MERLOT COLUMBIA VALLEY

TASTING NOTES

This deliciously aromatic wine is bursting with ripe cherry and currant aromas and flavors seamlessly woven around a core of warm vanilla spice. Rich and concentrated, the smooth, lush finish lasts and lasts.

[*Mike Januik, Winemaker*]

VINTAGE

Many Columbia Valley winemakers – including ours – believe 2002 ranks in the top four vintages of the last 20 years. Overall, the season was warm. Temperatures spiked briefly in July, then moderated. The harvest was warm and dry. Grapes ripened to perfection, yielding balanced fruit and complex, flavorful wines.

VINEYARDS

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 by blending grapes from unique vineyards throughout the region. Vineyard sources that give this wine its richness and complexity include the winery's estate vineyard Stillwater Creek and other well-known sites including Klipsun and Red Mountain Vineyards, Alder Ridge and Seven Hills.

WINEMAKING

- 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 half new, half one-year-old predominately French oak barrels

BLEND

94% Merlot

6% Cabernet Sauvignon

CASE PRODUCTION

1,520 cases

ALCOHOL

14.1%

pH

3.68

TOTAL ACIDITY

0.56 g/100 ml