



**2003 Novelty Hill Stillwater Creek Vineyard Merlot
Columbia Valley**

Tasting Notes	<p>Dark and dense, this rich Merlot is loaded with mocha, currant and fresh berry aromas and flavors. Wrapped around a generous black cherry core, the finish is long and lush.</p> <p><i>Mike Januik, Winemaker</i></p>
Vintage	<p>The 2003 Columbia Valley growing season was hot, producing ripe, opulent wines and leading many winemakers to compare it to the fabulous 1998 vintage. Look for jammy, fruit-forward wines marked with ripe, rich character, due in large measure to the season's high overall heat accumulation.</p>
Vineyard	<p>Novelty Hill's estate vineyard, Stillwater Creek, is a steep, south-facing site on the Royal Slope of the Frenchman Hills in Washington State's Columbia Valley. With the goal of growing world-class wine grapes through careful vineyard management and innovative clonal selection, the vineyard is recognized for its unique collection of premium varietal clones, predominately Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah.</p>
Winemaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hand-picked and fermented in small lot• Gentle pumpovers during fermentation helped extract generous color and flavor while producing soft, supple tannins• Gravity racked every three months to soften and clarify the wine• Aged 18 months in 50% new, 50% one-year-old barrels; 80% French, 20% American
Blend	<p>85 % Merlot 10 % Cabernet Sauvignon 5% Cabernet Franc</p>
Case Production	198 cases
Alcohol	14.4%
pH	3.64
Total Acidity	0.53 g/100 ml