



**2004 Novelty Hill Merlot
Columbia Valley**

Tasting Notes	<p>Black cherry and mocha aromas and flavors define this ripe, fruit-forward wine. Sweet tannins and a silky, lush mouth feel linger on the rich finish.</p> <p>Mike Januik, Winemaker</p>
Vintage	<p>The 2004 Columbia Valley growing season was marked by a hot summer and a cool September, followed by a warm October that finished ripening the grapes late in the season. While the late ripening was tricky for some vineyards carrying a larger-than-average crop load due to a January freeze, those vineyards including ours, that dropped crop early in the season ripened grapes beautifully and the added hang time improved flavor development.</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 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 Alder Ridge, Conner Lee and Seven Hills, among others.</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 in both new and one-year-old oak barrels
Blend	<p>90% Merlot 5% Cabernet Sauvignon 5% Petit Verdot</p>
Case Production	2,617 cases
Alcohol	14.4%
pH	3.66
Total Acidity	0.53g/100 ml