



**2007 Novelty Hill Merlot
Columbia Valley**

Tasting Notes	<p>Washington has a dedicated following for Merlot, and this Columbia Valley blend is a classic example of why the variety has such appeal. Generous layers of red raspberry, black cherry and mocha combine with a seductive mouth feel that lasts across a dark, silky finish.</p> <p>Mike Januik, Winemaker</p>
Vintage	<p>A fantastic vintage due in part to an unusual spring heat wave just before bloom that resulted in smaller than average berries, adding concentration and flavor to the grapes. Good set after bloom, ideal summer temperatures, and Columbia Valley's typical fall weather pattern of warm days and cool nights, ripened grapes slowly and evenly. The resulting wines have excellent natural acidity and deep, intense flavor.</p>
Vineyards	<p>The Columbia Valley is a diverse growing region that provides a wide range of fruit expressions to yield rich, multi-layered wines, like our 2007 Merlot. By blending grapes from the winery's estate vineyard Stillwater Creek (60%) with select lots from Alder Ridge Vineyard (28%) in the Horse Heaven Hills and Klipsun Vineyard on Red Mountain (12%), winemaker Mike Januik has crafted a wine of dimension and complexity.</p>
Winemaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A combination of punch downs and pumpovers were used to extract color and flavor during early fermentation• Fermentation finished in barrels to integrate the fruit and oak• Gravity-racked to soften and clarify the wine• Aged 20 months in predominately French oak barrels, 40% new
Blend	<p>95% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon, 1% Cabernet Franc</p>
Case Production	<p>2,151 cases</p>
Alcohol	<p>14.4 %</p>
pH	<p>3.62</p>
Total Acidity	<p>0.53 g/100 ml</p>