

# NOVELTY HILL

## 2015 MERLOT

### TASTING NOTES

Inviting wild cherry and dark chocolate aromas and flavors carry across a lushly textured mid-palate that gains intensity with added notes of fresh raspberry jam and spiced mocha. Rich and elegant, with a satisfying finish that lasts.

- Mike Januik, Winemaker

### VINTAGE

The Columbia Valley enjoyed another warm growing season in 2015. Careful canopy management in the vineyard throughout the summer shaded the grapes from too much afternoon sun, and though warm daytime temperatures persisted throughout the fall, the days were offset by the Columbia Valley's cool autumn nights. The conditions combined to slow ripening just enough to develop full physiological maturity in the fruit resulting in fresh, concentrated grapes with excellent natural acidity.

### VINEYARD

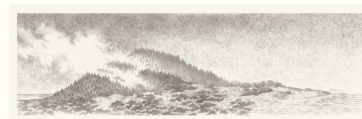
The Columbia Valley is a diverse growing region that provides a wide range of fruit expressions to yield multi-layered wines. For this Merlot, winemaker Mike Januik blended barrels from Novelty Hill's estate vineyard Stillwater Creek on the Royal Slope of the Frenchman Hills, along with select lots from the Horse Heaven Hills and Tri-Cities area to create a rich, balanced wine.

### WINEMAKING

- Gentle pump overs during fermentation were used to submerge the skins and extract color and flavor from the grapes
- Gravity-racked every five months to soften and clarify the wine
- Aged 19 months in 40% new, 60% used barrels; 70% French oak

AVA	Columbia Valley
Blend	93% Merlot 7% Cabernet Sauvignon
Cases	2,832
Alcohol	14.4%
pH	3.72
Total Acidity	0.56 g/100 ml

[noveltyhillwines.com](http://noveltyhillwines.com)



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COLUMBIA VALLEY  
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