

Mike Januik
Winemaker/Owner, Januik Winery
Winemaker, Novelty Hill



Since his first harvest in the Columbia Valley in 1984, Mike Januik has been at the forefront of Washington wine quality and innovation. One of the most honored winemakers in the state, Washington Wine Report editor Sean Sullivan recently wrote, “Few in the Washington wine industry can claim the extraordinary level of success that has followed Mike Januik throughout his career.”

With literally hundreds of 90+ ratings to his credit, Mike’s wines have appeared on Wine Spectator’s prestigious “Top 100” list a dozen times, and in 2011, Wine & Spirits magazine named Januik “Winery of the Year.”

It’s no surprise then that one of the world’s ten “Masters of Merlot,” as Wine Enthusiast magazine deemed him, has also mentored countless rising Washington winemakers. Over the years, Mike has advised dozens of fledgling vintners who have gone on to earn acclaim in their own right, including several winemakers who worked alongside him during his ten years at Chateau Ste. Michelle.

During his tenure there, Mike reengineered Chateau Ste. Michelle’s winemaking program. He established the winery’s single vineyard and reserve program, oversaw the design of a dedicated red winemaking facility, and implemented Washington’s first Logix system, a cutting edge technology to facilitate precise management of all mechanical aspects of the cellar. Such quality initiatives, Mike’s relationship with the state’s top growers, and his meticulous attention to detail won accolades for Chateau Ste. Michelle and formed the basis for his own winemaking operation following his departure from Chateau Ste. Michelle in 1999.

Mike crushed his first grapes under the Januik Winery label that fall, the same year he began consulting on vineyard plantings at Novelty Hill’s estate vineyard Stillwater Creek. It was at Mike’s urging that the vineyard was planted with one of the most innovative clonal selections in the state. He has been making Novelty Hill’s wines since the winery’s first vintage in 2000.

Mike holds a master’s degree in enology and viticulture from University of California, Davis, where he studied with Drs. Ann C. Noble, creator of the “aroma wheel,” and Roger Boulton, an expert in fermentation science.