

NOVELTY HILL

2014 MERLOT, STILLWATER CREEK VINEYARD

TASTING NOTES

A concentrated, layered wine with expressive aromas and flavors of red currant, ripe cherry and shaved chocolate. Rich and mouth filling, with a textured, lengthy finish.

- Mike Januik, *Winemaker*

VINTAGE

The 2014 growing season gave winemakers yet another picture perfect vintage. Spring conditions were moderate, free of frost and other weather worries. Summer temperatures were warm and stayed that way through harvest, with the Columbia Valley's warm fall daytime temperatures and cool autumn evenings protecting the grapes' natural acidity to produce bright, fresh flavors in the finished wines.

VINEYARD

With the goal of growing quality wine grapes through careful vineyard management and innovative clonal selection, Stillwater Creek has earned a reputation as one of Washington State's top vineyards. Planted in 2000 on a steep, south-facing site in the Frenchman Hills, the vineyard is regarded for its unique collection of premium varietal clones, predominately Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah.

WINEMAKING

- Hand harvested in small lots
- Gentle pumped over during fermentation to extract color and flavor while producing soft, supple tannins
- Gravity-racked to soften and clarify the wine
- Aged 22 months; 85% French oak barrels, 15% American oak; 45% new

AVA	Columbia Valley
Blend	97% Merlot 3% Cabernet Sauvignon
Cases	254
Alcohol	14.4%
pH	3.70
Total Acidity	0.52 g/100 ml

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