



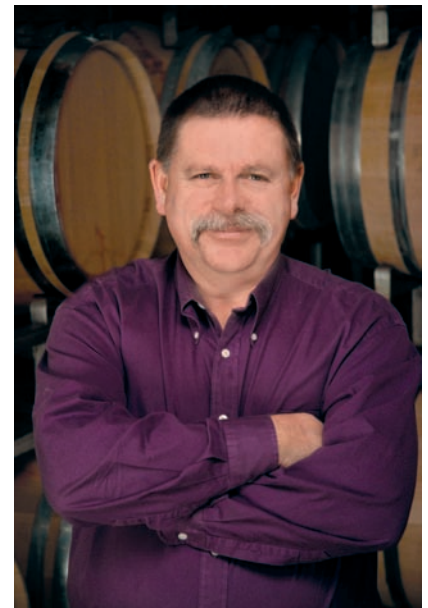
Stillwater Creek's grapes are used in some of the state's most coveted wines, including winemaker of the year (at right) Mike Januik's Novelty Hill creations

## Winemaker of the Year

MIKE JANUIK, NOVELTY HILL/JANUIK WINERY

WOODINVILLE, 14710 WOODINVILLE-REDMOND ROAD NE; 425.481.5502; JANUIKWINERY.COM; NOVELTYHILLWINES.COM

Head winemaker for Chateau Ste. Michelle from 1990 to 1999, Mike Januik managed many of the industry giant's wines at once—and brought Winery of the Year honors from *Wine & Spirits* magazine to the winery in 1997 and 1999. Now, as winemaker for two smaller ventures, Januik Winery and Novelty Hill, both housed in the sleek, new Mithun-designed winery and tasting room that opened last June in Woodinville, he's focusing on creating elegant, well-balanced Bordeaux blends, Merlot and Chardonnay wines, among others. His winemaking has garnered international kudos—including eight wines listed on *Wine Spectator's* "Top 100" list and being named one of the world's 10 Masters of Merlot by *Wine Enthusiast* magazine in 1999. Even so, Januik's personality is more down-to-earth wine lover than high-powered vintner.



## Vineyard of the Year

STILLWATER CREEK

ROYAL CITY; 425.481.5502; STILLWATERCREEKVINEYARD.COM

About 16 miles south of the Columbia River and within the Columbia Valley AVA, Stillwater Creek Vineyard, owned by the Alberg family of Seattle, is gaining kudos for its world-class grapes that, in the hands of some of the best winemakers in the state, produce delicious wines with depth of flavor, balancing acidity and ageable tannic structure. This wide, well-drained, predominantly south-facing 245-acre vineyard in the Frenchman Hills just north of the Wahluke Slope may be its own AVA some day, but for now, in its eighth year of growth, it is producing Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Syrah and Cabernet Franc grapes, as well as Chardonnay, Semillon and Sauvignon Blanc in a few cooler, north-facing areas. Top winemakers, such as Matt Loso of Matthews Estate, make wines from these coveted grapes, but most go into the delicately aromatic and elegantly balanced wines produced by Mike Januik for the Alberg family's Novelty Hill.