

# NOVELTY HILL

## 2017 R.S.R RED WINE BLEND

### TASTING NOTES

Concentrated and richly scented in the glass with enticing black fruit aromas gaining focus on the palate. Fresh plum, currant and black cherry flavors stretch across a long, textured finish.

- *Mike Januik, Winemaker*

### VINTAGE

Spring 2017 was marked by cool, wet weather that resulted in a late bud break, but hot, dry summer conditions accelerated the season and put ripening back on track. Clusters were small with fewer berries than usual allowing light to penetrate the vine and color the fruit from all sides. This, combined with near perfect fall harvest conditions, yielded fresh, expressive wines with plenty of depth and structure.

### VINEYARD

The Columbia Valley is a diverse growing region that delivers a wide range of fruit expressions and yields delicious, multi-layered wines through blending. For this enjoyable wine, winemaker Mike Januik uses grapes from Novelty Hill's family-owned estate vineyard Stillwater Creek planted on the Royal Slope of the Frenchman Hills. Veteran viticulturist Ed Kelly manages the estate and credits moderate growing conditions for the grapes' extended hang time and fully developed flavors. The 2017 R.S.R. blend also includes select lots of Wahluke Slope grapes. This area is one of the driest, warmest climates in the state, providing nearly complete control of vine vigor and ripening through irrigation to accentuate the character of the fruit.

### WINEMAKING

- Twice-daily pumpovers gently extracted color and flavor from the grapes during the early stages of fermentation
- Fermentation finished in barrels to integrate the fruit and oak
- Gravity racked to soften and clarify the wine
- Aged 19 months in 25% new, 55% used French oak and 10% new, 10% used American oak barrels

Blend 90% Cabernet Sauvignon  
10% Cabernet Franc

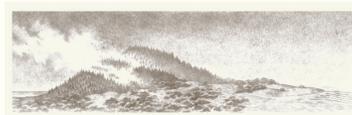
Alcohol 14.4%

pH 3.74

Total Acidity 0.54 g/100 ml

AVA Columbia Valley

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