

NOVELTY HILL

2018 Merlot, Stillwater Creek Vineyard

TASTING NOTES

Fresh red cherry and purple plum aromas are laced with an expressive hint of baking spice. Bright and focused on the mid-palate, this multi-layered wine is bursting with red currants, graphite and cranberries. The flavors combine with the wine's rich, silky tannins to create a hedonistic impression that stretches across a long, graceful finish.

- Mike Januik, Winemaker

VINTAGE

The 2018 Columbia Valley growing season started slowly. Temperatures were cool throughout most of April, then the heat arrived in May and the warm weather persisted throughout the summer. By early September, conditions moderated significantly, and the growing region's classic pattern of warm fall days and cool nights returned to extend harvest to a measured pace. The cooler fall temperatures slowed ripening just enough to allow grapes to develop full, mature flavors and produce ripe, balanced reds wines with excellent natural acidity and rich tannins.

VINEYARD

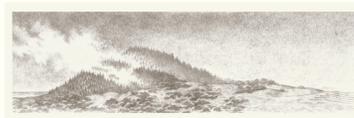
Under the direction of Stillwater Creek viticulturist Ed Kelly, Novelty Hill's Stillwater Creek estate vineyard delivers superior Merlot vintage after vintage. With the goal of growing quality wine grapes through careful vineyard management and a diverse selection of clones, Stillwater Creek has earned a reputation as one of Washington State's top vineyards. Planted in 2000 on a steep, south-facing site on the Royal Slope of the Frenchman Hills, the vineyard is particularly well-known its collection of premium varietal clones, especially Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Syrah.

WINEMAKING

- Hand harvested in small lots
- Gently pumped over during fermentation to extract color and flavor while producing soft, supple tannins
- Gravity-racked to soften and clarify the wine
- Aged 19 months in 30% new, 35% used French oak barrels; 10% new American oak; 25% used

AVA	Columbia Valley
Blend	90% Merlot 10% Cabernet Sauvignon
Cases	479
Alcohol	14.4%
pH	3.72
Total Acidity	0.52 g/100 ml

noveltyhillwines.com



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MERLOT
STILLWATER CREEK VINEYARD
Columbia Valley
2018