

NOVELTY HILL

2019 MERLOT STILLWATER CREEK VINEYARD

TASTING NOTES

“Fresh and concentrated, this is a classic Washington Merlot with aromas of ripe red cherries, wild raspberries, and a hint of cedar. On the palate, polished tannins wrap around a core of red currant, juicy cherry, and shaved chocolate. Rich and mouth-filling, with a generous, textured finish.”

- Mike Januik, Winemaker

VINTAGE

The 2019 growing season started slowly with cool temperatures extending into late spring, but the weather warmed as summer progressed, and the vines achieved August veraison dates in keeping with a typical year. As a result of cooler than average temperatures earlier in the season, crops were thinned during the summer. Careful vineyard management helped support even ripening into the fall, a season marked by cooler temperatures yet again. The grapes enjoyed the added hang-time that allowed the fruit to achieve physiological maturity, making wines notable for their excellent natural acidity, concentration, and flavor.

VINEYARD

Under the direction of Stillwater Creek viticulturist Ed Kelly, Novelty Hill's Stillwater Creek estate vineyard delivers fine Merlot vintage after vintage. Intending to grow 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 100% Merlot

Cases 339

Alcohol 14.4%

pH 3.76

Total Acidity 0.50 g/100 ml

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