

Novelty Hill Merlot Columbia Valley

THE FACTS

COUNTRY: USA - WA

REGION: Columbia Valley - Washington

APPELLATION: Columbia Valley - Washington

CEPAGE: 94% Merlot, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon, 2% Cabernet Franc

WINEMAKING: Gentle pumpovers during fermentation, gravity racked every 5 months to soften and clarify

ALCOHOL BY VOLUME: 14.4%

AGING: 19mo, 75% French and 25% American, mixed use

THE STORY

Novelty Hill & Januik are two independent wineries that share a tasting room & production facility in Woodinville under the direction of Mike Januik, one of Washington's most acclaimed winemakers. The partnership began in 2000, shortly after Mike met Novelty Hill's owners Tom Alberg & Judi Beck and began consulting on the planting of a new vineyard, Stillwater Creek. Being a vintner, Mike couldn't imagine owning grapes without making wine. It didn't take much to convince Tom & Judi. Later that year, they established Novelty Hill with Mike at the winemaking helm. After crushing two vintages in Walla Walla, the operation moved to Woodinville's warehouse district in 2002 before putting down roots in 2007 in the stylish, modern state-of-the-art facility the two wineries share.

