



**ROAD 13**

# 5th Element 2013

## VITICULTURE:

The 2013 growing season was one of the best overall vintages we have seen in many years. The vines budded early and we received great warm temperatures all season long, culminating in a refreshingly early harvest, some 2 weeks earlier than normal. Quality and flavour intensity was very high across all grape varieties.

The grapes for the 2013 Fifth Element came from the Blind Creek Vineyard in the Similkameen valley (about 63%), with the balance of grapes coming primarily from the Rd 13 Castle Vineyard in the Okanagan Valley. During harvest the grapes were sampled bi-weekly to measure flavour development and to track phenolic (colour & tannin) maturity. Each variety and parcel of fruit was picked at its optimal point of flavour development in order to maximize the quality of the vintage and, in particular, the Fifth Element Blend.

## WINEMAKING:

Each parcel of fruit was hand-sorted and very slowly destemmed to ensure only the purest fruit characters ended up in the wine. Each batch of fruit was treated separately and kept separate throughout the aging process. The grapes were destemmed without crushing into small open top vessels for true small lot fermentation. During fermentation, the caps were punched down by hand thrice daily for about 10 days and the wine was then pressed off in our wooden basket press to commence the maturation process in a combination of new and older French oak barrels. The final blend was assembled in August, 2015, before bottling a few weeks later.

## TASTING NOTES:

This impressive wine opens with lifted aromas of Black Cherry, Cassis, Pomegranate, and liquorice, along with notes of baking spice, cedar, tobacco and mint. The palate is big, soft and silky with an overall impression of fruit intensity, elegance and polished tannins, but with a nice vibrant core of acidity to keep the wine living well into the future.

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SKU: 993952

PRODUCTION: 1704 6-packs

### THE BLEND:

45% Merlot 18% Syrah 19% Cab Sauv 13% Cab Franc  
5% Petit Verdot

### WINE CHEMISTRY:

Avg Brix: 26.5    pH: 3.82    TA: 6.0 g/L  
Alcohol: 15.5 %    RS: 0.6 g/L

BOTTLED: September 2, 2015

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE DIRT

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