

ONTARIO WINE
APPELLATION AUTHORITY



Ontario's wine
APPELLATIONS



NOTE

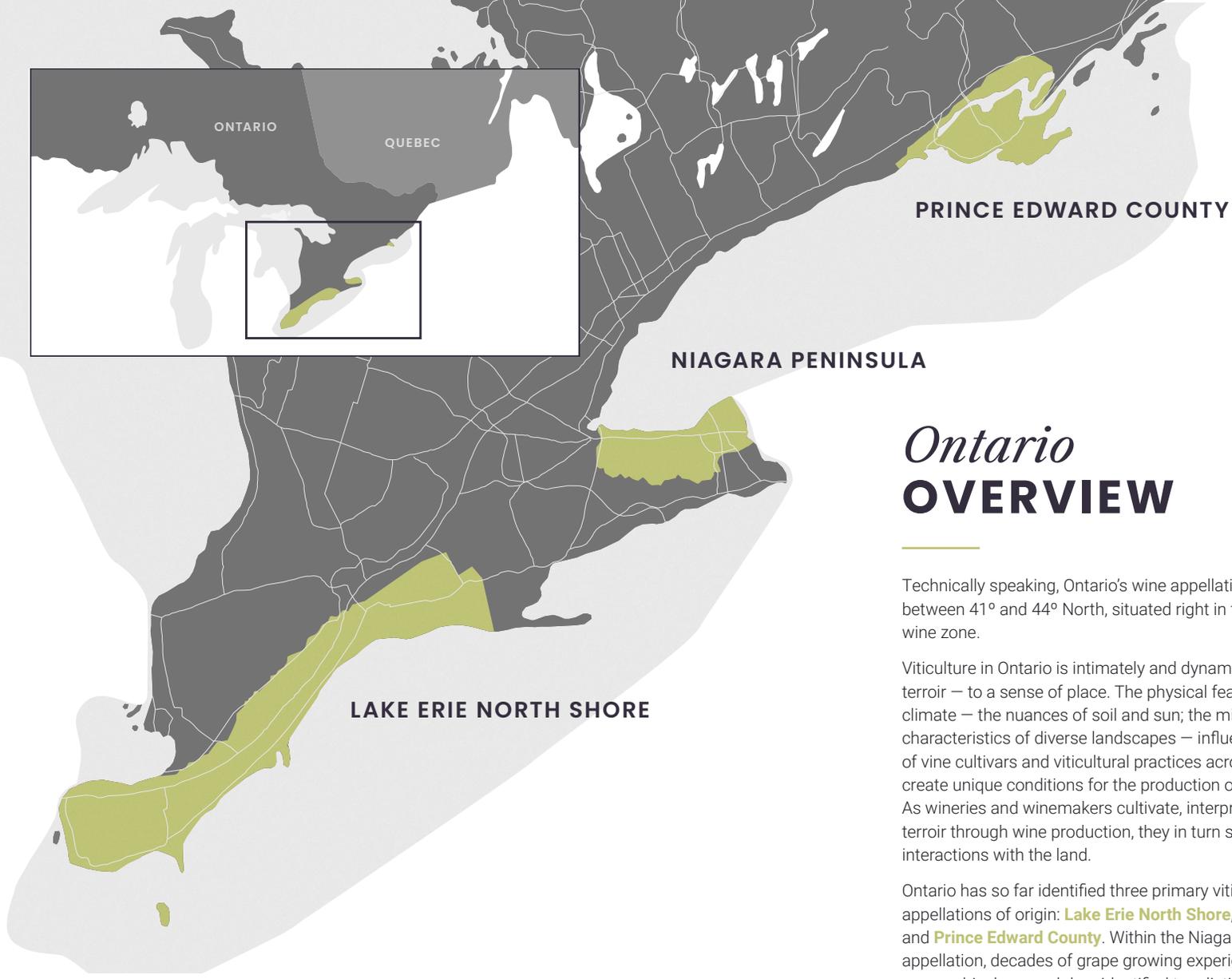
Production statistics are based on the year April 1 2021 to March 31 2022. Statistics are updated annually on our website at www.vqaontario.ca.

Annual Production by geographical area includes VQA-certified wines that carry an appellation included in that geographical area. For example, Niagara Escarpment includes all wines that carry the following appellations: Niagara Escarpment, Beamsville Bench, Twenty Mile Bench, Short Hills Bench.

Common Varietals listed are the top varieties across all production (single varietals and blends) for each appellation.

For more information please email us at info@vqaontario.ca





PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY

NIAGARA PENINSULA

LAKE ERIE NORTH SHORE

Ontario OVERVIEW

Technically speaking, Ontario's wine appellations are located between 41° and 44° North, situated right in the world's fine wine zone.

Viticulture in Ontario is intimately and dynamically related to terroir — to a sense of place. The physical features of land and climate — the nuances of soil and sun; the minerality and taste characteristics of diverse landscapes — influence the choice of vine cultivars and viticultural practices across Ontario and create unique conditions for the production of grapes and wine. As wineries and winemakers cultivate, interpret and elaborate terroir through wine production, they in turn shape our tastes and interactions with the land.

Ontario has so far identified three primary viticultural areas or appellations of origin: **Lake Erie North Shore**, **Niagara Peninsula**, and **Prince Edward County**. Within the Niagara Peninsula appellation, decades of grape growing experience and extensive geographical research has identified ten distinct growing areas. These sub- appellations include areas on the plains close to Lake Ontario and the benchlands of the Niagara Escarpment.

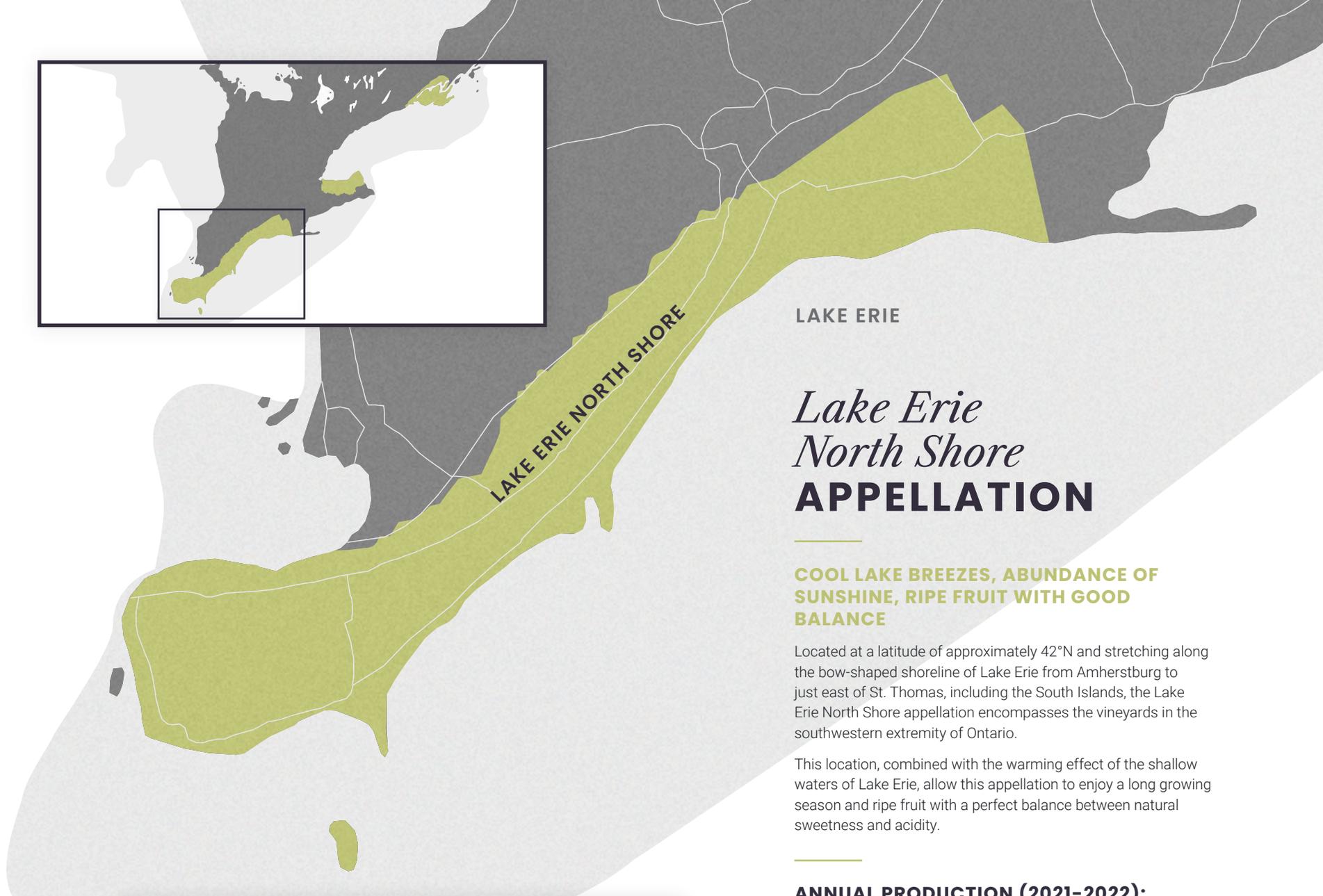
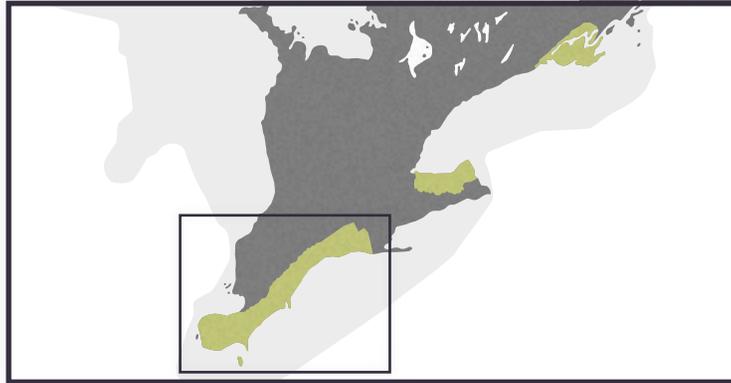
NOTABLE FEATURES
Stretching along the centre of the world's cool-climate wine belt, Ontario appellations share similar growing season characteristics with some of the most recognized and respected wine-growing regions of the world.

ANNUAL PRODUCTION (2021-2022):
2,940,109 (9L cases)

NUMBER OF WINERIES: 191

NUMBER OF VQA WINES: 2,134





LAKE ERIE NORTH SHORE

LAKE ERIE

Lake Erie North Shore **APPELLATION**

**COOL LAKE BREEZES, ABUNDANCE OF
SUNSHINE, RIPE FRUIT WITH GOOD
BALANCE**

Located at a latitude of approximately 42°N and stretching along the bow-shaped shoreline of Lake Erie from Amherstburg to just east of St. Thomas, including the South Islands, the Lake Erie North Shore appellation encompasses the vineyards in the southwestern extremity of Ontario.

This location, combined with the warming effect of the shallow waters of Lake Erie, allow this appellation to enjoy a long growing season and ripe fruit with a perfect balance between natural sweetness and acidity.

ANNUAL PRODUCTION (2021-2022):

10,785 (9L cases)

NUMBER OF WINERIES: 16

NUMBER OF APPELLATION WINES: 47

GROWING DEGREE DAYS: 1,515

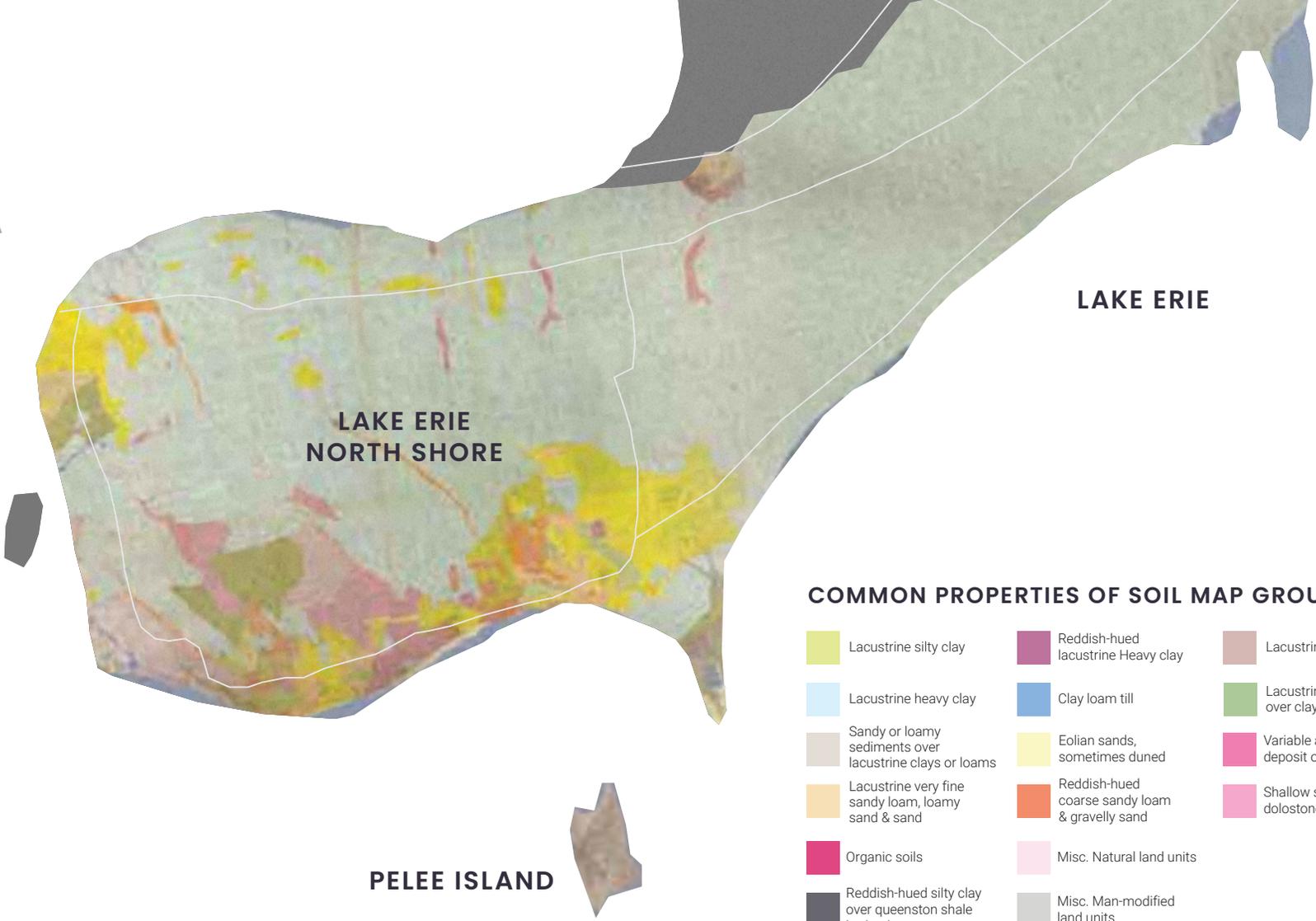
COMMON VARIETALS: Cabernet Franc, Riesling, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot

NOTABLE FEATURES

Plantings in Lake Erie North Shore are well developed close to the Lake Erie shoreline, where topographic and climatic conditions are particularly favourable and support full and balanced ripening of grapes.



USA



LAKE ERIE

LAKE ERIE
NORTH SHORE

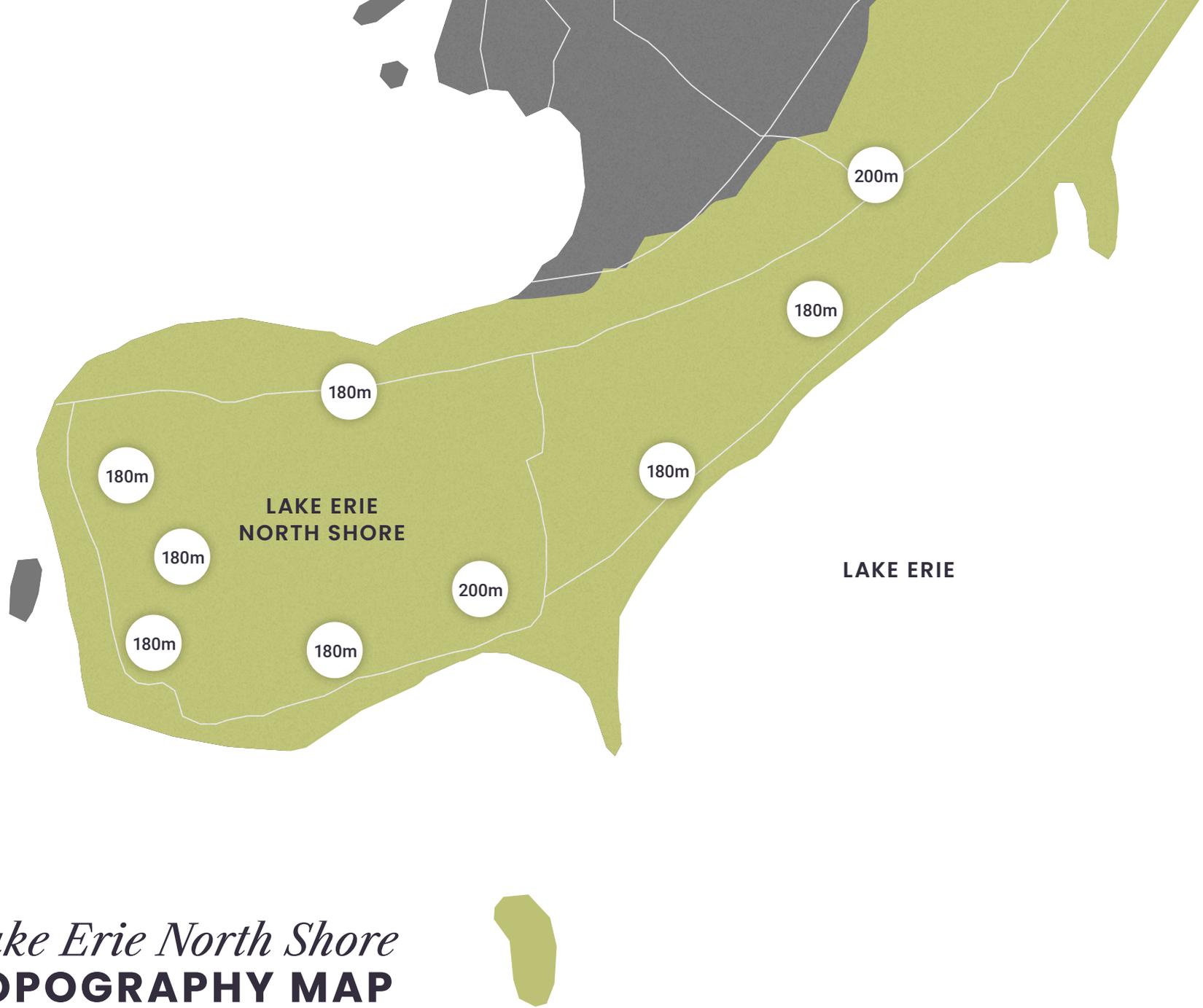
PELEE ISLAND

COMMON PROPERTIES OF SOIL MAP GROUPS

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
|  Lacustrine silty clay |  Reddish-hued lacustrine Heavy clay |  Lacustrine silt loam |
|  Lacustrine heavy clay |  Clay loam till |  Lacustrine silty clay over clay loam till |
|  Sandy or loamy sediments over lacustrine clays or loams |  Eolian sands, sometimes duned |  Variable alluvial deposit on floodplains |
|  Lacustrine very fine sandy loam, loamy sand & sand |  Reddish-hued coarse sandy loam & gravelly sand |  Shallow soils over dolostone bedrock |
|  Organic soils |  Misc. Natural land units | |
|  Reddish-hued silty clay over queenston shale bedrock |  Misc. Man-modified land units | |

Lake Erie North Shore
SOIL MAP

Lake Erie North Shore
TOPOGRAPHY MAP



MIDDLE SISTER ISLAND

NORTH HARBOUR ISLAND

EAST SISTER ISLAND

HEN ISLAND

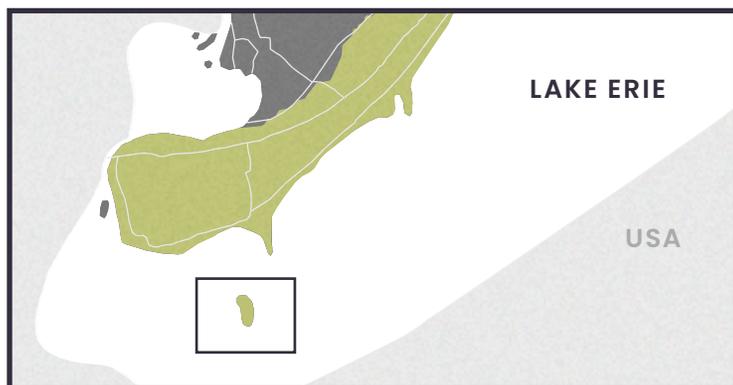
CHICKEN ISLAND

LITTLE CHICKEN ISLAND

BIG CHICKEN ISLAND

PELEE ISLAND

LAKE ERIE



MIDDLE ISLAND

LAKE ERIE NORTH SHORE

South Islands

SUB-APPELLATION

**ISLAND BREEZES, WARM SUMMERS,
EARLY HARVEST**

The South Islands are the nine islands that comprise the municipality of the Town of Pelee Island and are part of the Lake Erie North Shore appellation. South Islands was declared a sub-appellation in July 2015. Grapes are grown on the largest island, Pelee, which is approximately 10,000 acres in total land area and situated at Canada's most southerly point of latitude of 41°45'N. Located in Lake Erie about 20 kilometres off the shoreline, South Islands enjoys the longest growing season of any wine appellation in Canada. Warm breezes off of Lake Erie moderate summer and fall temperatures, with harvest usually beginning two to three weeks earlier than in the other regions – often in August. The long, warm growing season favours some varieties that are unusual for Ontario, including Tempranillo.

NOTABLE FEATURES

Pelee Island is the site of Canada's first commercial winery, VinVilla, which began operations in 1866. A hundred years later, its vineyards of native grapes were replanted with premium *Vitis Vinifera* vines.

ANNUAL PRODUCTION (2021-2022):

3,444 (9L cases)

NUMBER OF WINERIES: 1

NUMBER OF APPELLATION WINES: 5

GROWING DEGREE DAYS: 1,592

COMMON VARIETALS: Cabernet Franc, Riesling

South Islands SOIL MAP

MIDDLE SISTER ISLAND

NORTH HARBOUR ISLAND

EAST SISTER ISLAND

HEN ISLAND

CHICKEN ISLAND

LITTLE CHICKEN ISLAND

BIG CHICKEN ISLAND



MIDDLE ISLAND

LAKE ERIE

COMMON PROPERTIES OF SOIL MAP GROUPS

 Lacustrine silty clay	 Reddish-hued lacustrine Heavy clay	 Lacustrine silt loam
 Lacustrine heavy clay	 Clay loam till	 Lacustrine silty clay over clay loam till
 Sandy or loamy sediments over lacustrine clays or loams	 Eolian sands, sometimes duned	 Variable alluvial deposit on floodplains
 Lacustrine very fine sandy loam, loamy sand & sand	 Reddish-hued coarse sandy loam & gravelly sand	 Shallow soils over dolostone bedrock
 Organic soils	 Misc. Natural land units	
 Reddish-hued silty clay over queenston shale bedrock	 Misc. Man-modified land units	

MIDDLE SISTER ISLAND

NORTH HARBOUR ISLAND

EAST SISTER ISLAND

HEN ISLAND

CHICKEN ISLAND
BIG CHICKEN ISLAND

LITTLE CHICKEN
ISLAND

LAKE ERIE



South Islands
TOPOGRAPHY MAP

ONTARIO WINE

APPELLATION AUTHORITY



VQA is the starting point for every authentic wine of origin and quality in Ontario. The Ontario Wine Appellation Authority is the regulatory agency responsible for the integrity of local wine appellations, enforcing wine composition and labelling standards, and ensuring consumers have the information they need to make an informed choice when buying VQA certified wines.

Ontario Wine Appellation Authority

5775 Yonge St., Suite 1220

Toronto, ON M2M 4J1

VQAONTARIO.CA