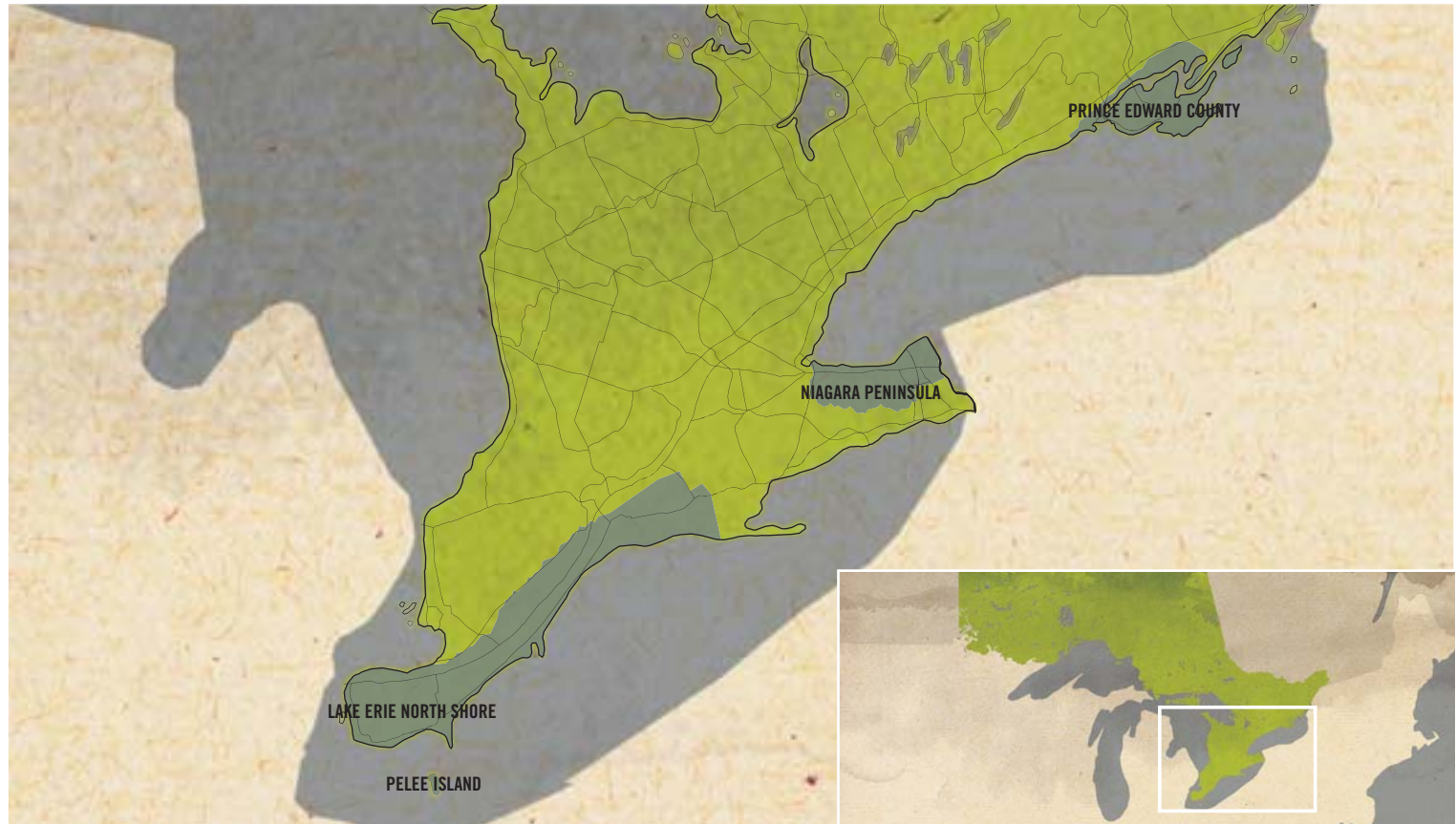


Ontario Appellation Overview

Mapping terroirs of distinction

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 interaction with the land.

Ontario has so far identified four primary Viticultural Areas or appellations of origin: Niagara Peninsula, Lake Erie North Shore, Pelee Island, 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

Wine-producing grapes only grow in two geographical belts around the globe – one just north of the equator, and one a little bit south of it. These are the only areas with the right mixture of sun, rain, and temperature.

Ontario's wine appellations sit in the middle of the northern grape growing belt at latitudes between 41° and 44° north.