

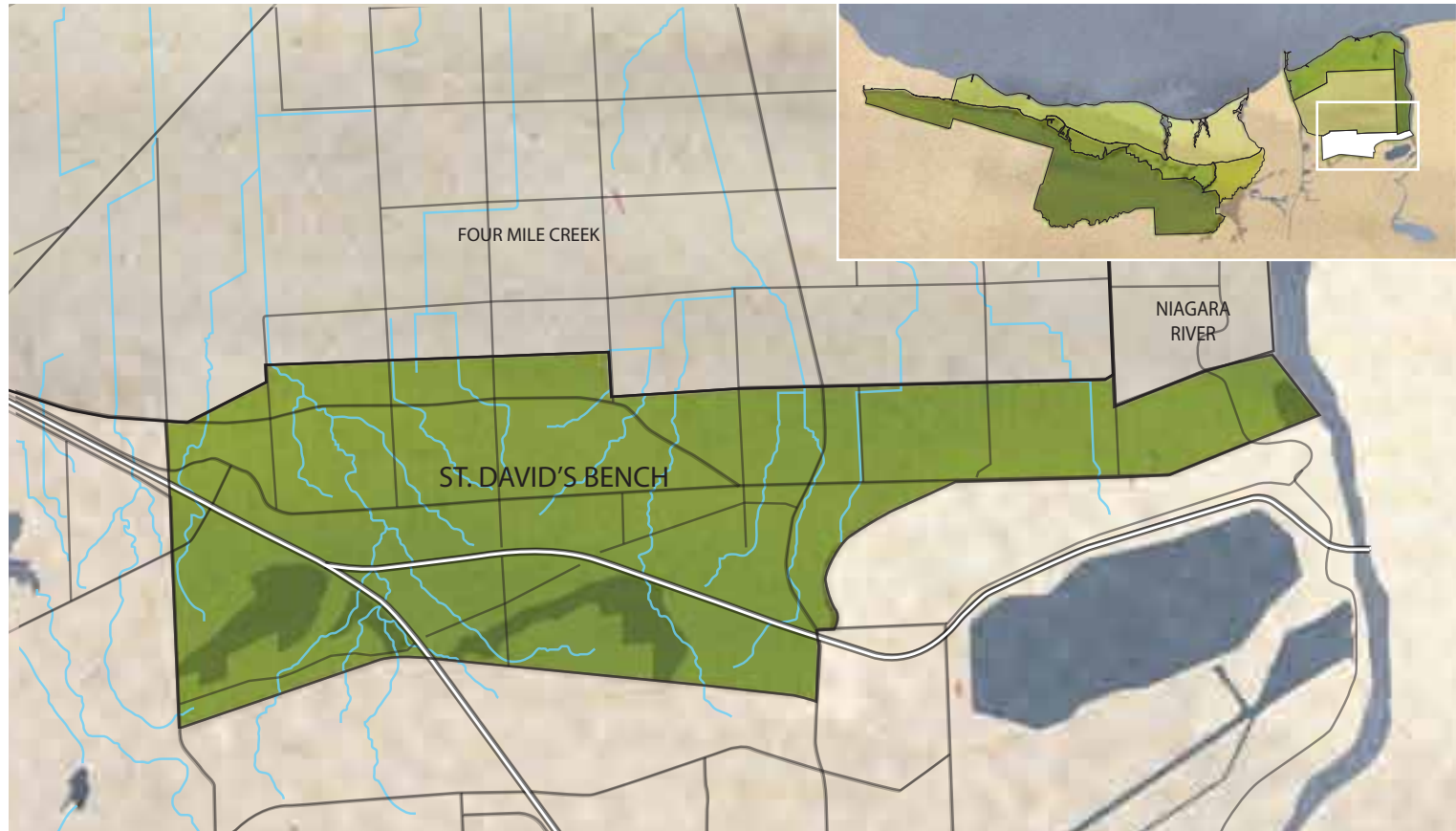
Sub-Appellation Overview

Early warming in spring, generous precipitation, rich ripe wines

St. David's Bench lies 10 km south of the shore of Lake Ontario and several metres above the Lake Iroquois Plain.

This bench, formed when glaciers carved out the Niagara Escarpment, rises from the historic shoreline of Lake Iroquois towards the base of the escarpment where a steep ridge collects the lake breezes to circulate and then eddy them back over the plains.

The appellation follows the contour lines that define the escarpment from the Niagara River to Beechwood Road, with a complex topography. Vineyards in St David's Bench are mostly located on north-facing slopes on the upper portion of the bench and along its southern boundary at the Lake Iroquois Shore Bluff.



NOTABLE FEATURES

Sheltered by the Niagara Escarpment, and farther inland from the warm lake waters, vineyards on the Bench tend to be slightly cooler during the late season when grapes are ripening. Combined with the early spring warming, this creates a unique growing season and promises mature, refined wines.

STATISTICS

GROWING DEGREE DAYS (AVG.): **1423**
 FROST FREE DAYS: **210 (-2°)**
 JULY MEAN TEMPERATURE: **22.5°**
 GROWING SEASON: **April to October**
 PRECIPITATION: **543mm (grow season)**

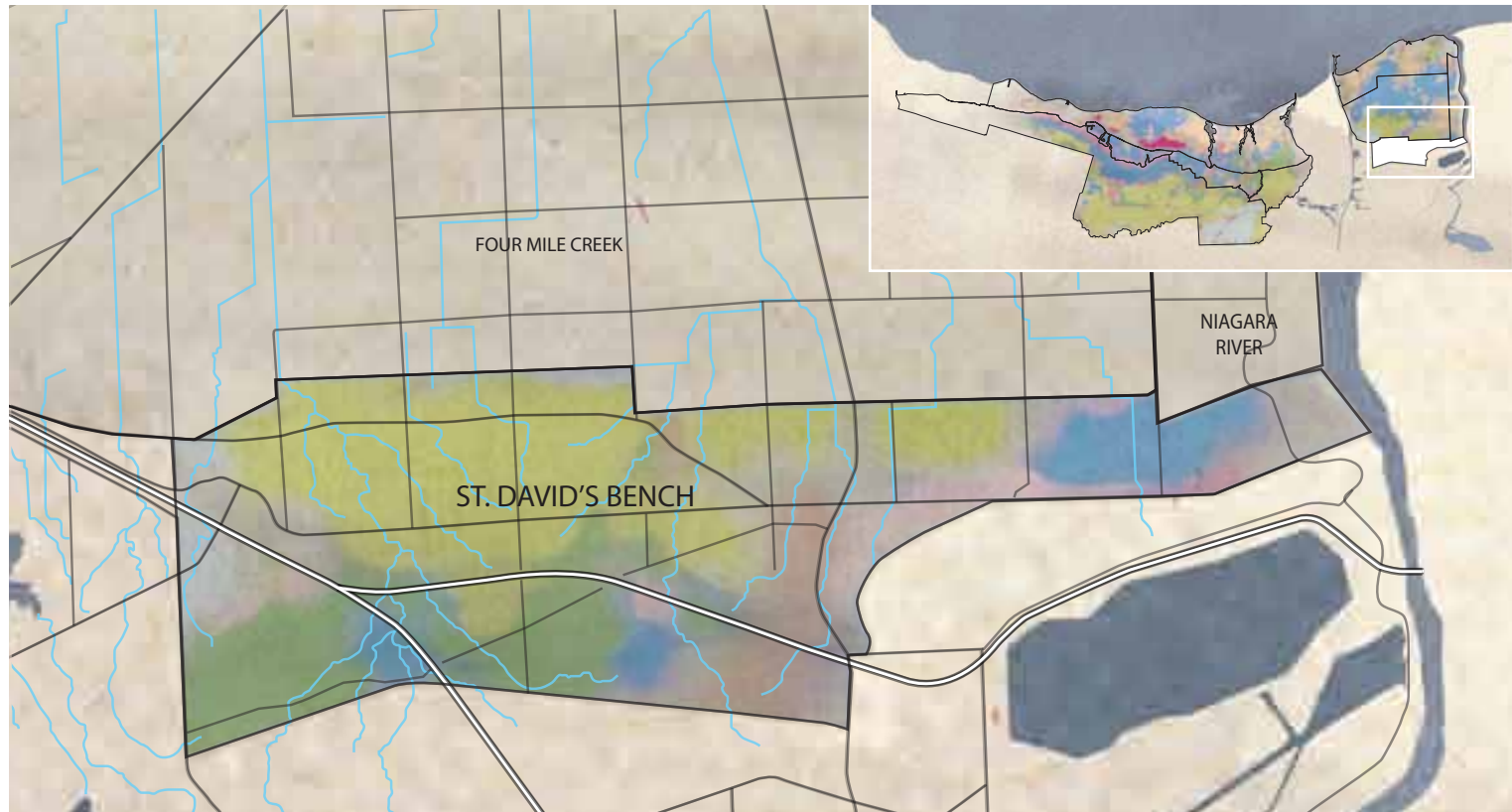
COMMON VARIETALS: **Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon**
 PRODUCTION (2012 REPORTING YEAR): **16487 (9L cases)**
 NUMBER OF APPROVED WINES: **43**
 NUMBER OF WINERIES: **7**

St. David's Bench

Soil Characteristics

















The soils of this appellation, spread over a red sandstone bedrock, are deep, rich clays. The mostly silty clays and clay loam tend to hold moisture and drain slowly.

Snow melt and spring rain saturates the soil early in the season and provides a reliable source of water that is held in the sub-soils and nourishes the vines throughout the season.



COMMON PROPERTIES OF SOIL MAP GROUPS

ONTARIO INSTITUTE OF PEDOLOGY, 1989. GENERALIZED SOIL MAP REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

 LACUSTRINE SILTY CLAY	 LACUSTRINE SILT LOAM	 EOLIAN SANDS, SOMETIMES DUNED	 ORGANIC SOILS
 LACUSTRINE HEAVY CLAY	 LACUSTRINE SILTY CLAY OVER CLAY LOAM TILL	 REDDISH-HUED COARSE SANDY LOAM & GRAVELLY SAND	 REDDISH-HUED SILTY CLAY OVER QUEENSTON SHALE BEDROCK
 REDDISH-HUED LACUSTRINE HEAVY CLAY	 SANDY OR LOAMY SEDIMENTS OVER LACUSTRINE CLAYS OR LOAMS	 VARIABLE ALLUVIAL DEPOSIT ON FLOODPLAINS	 MISC. NATURAL LAND UNITS
 CLAY LOAM TILL	 LACUSTRINE VERY FINE SANDY LOAM, LOAMY SAND & SAND	 SHALLOW SOILS OVER DOLOSTONE BEDROCK	 MISC. MAN-MODIFIED LAND UNITS

St. David's Bench

Topography

With an elevation ranging from 145 to 105 metres above sea level, this appellation has a relatively high elevation and its bluffs shelter the area from the strong, cool south-westerly winds that prevail in the spring. Vineyards are situated on the long north-facing slopes, which are crossed by several shallow streams.

These streams – many seasonal with flooding in early spring and dry beds by late summer – offer good drainage of the ground water issuing from the base of the escarpment, promoting healthy vine growth throughout the growing season.

