

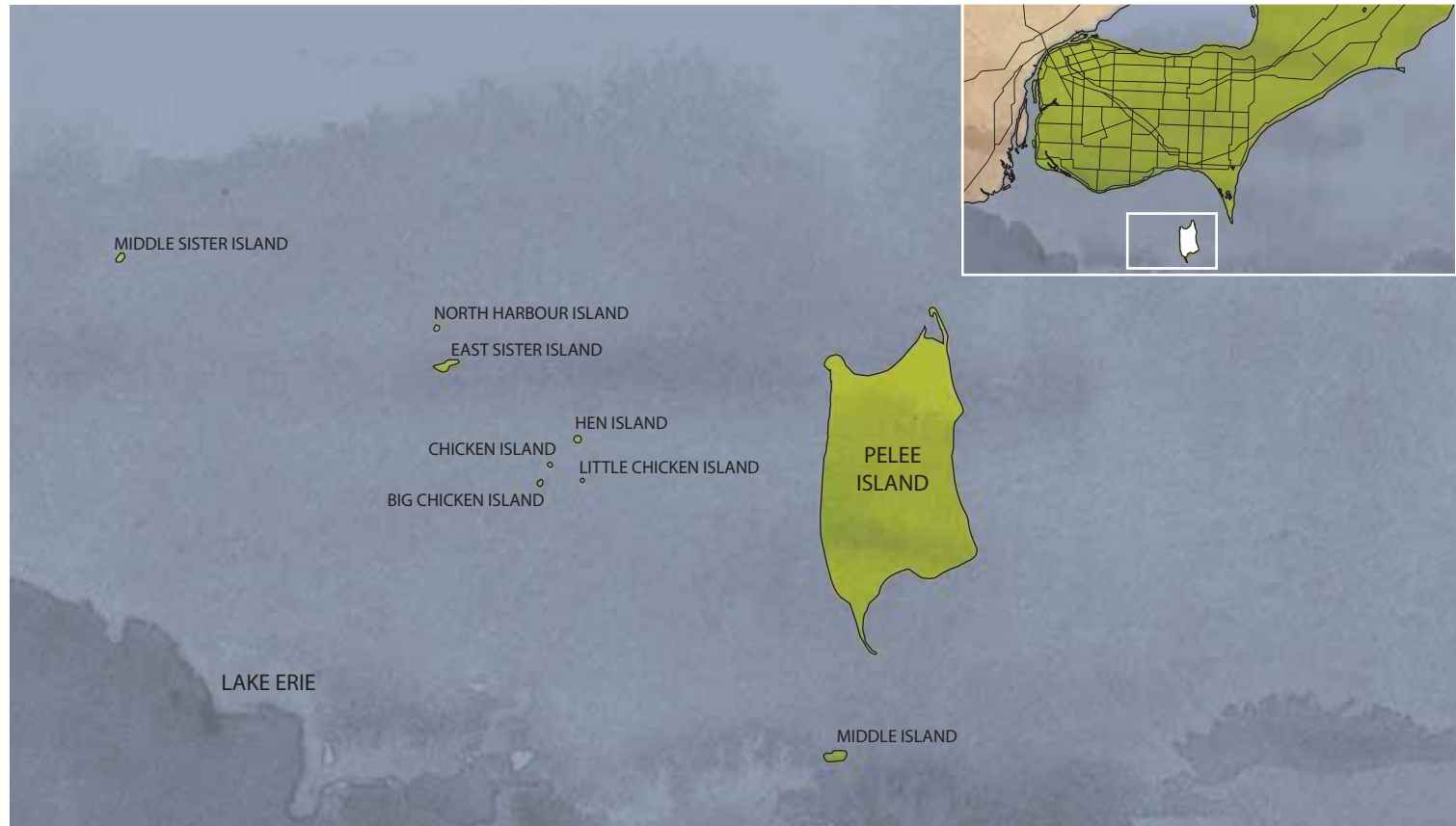
Sub-Appellation Overview

Island breezes, warm summers, early harvest

The South Islands are the nine islands that comprise the municipality of the Town of Pelee Island and part of the Lake Erie North Shore appellation. 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 N41°45'.

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, and harvest usually begins 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. These unique conditions have ensured a long history of successful wine grape growing on the Island.



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.

STATISTICS

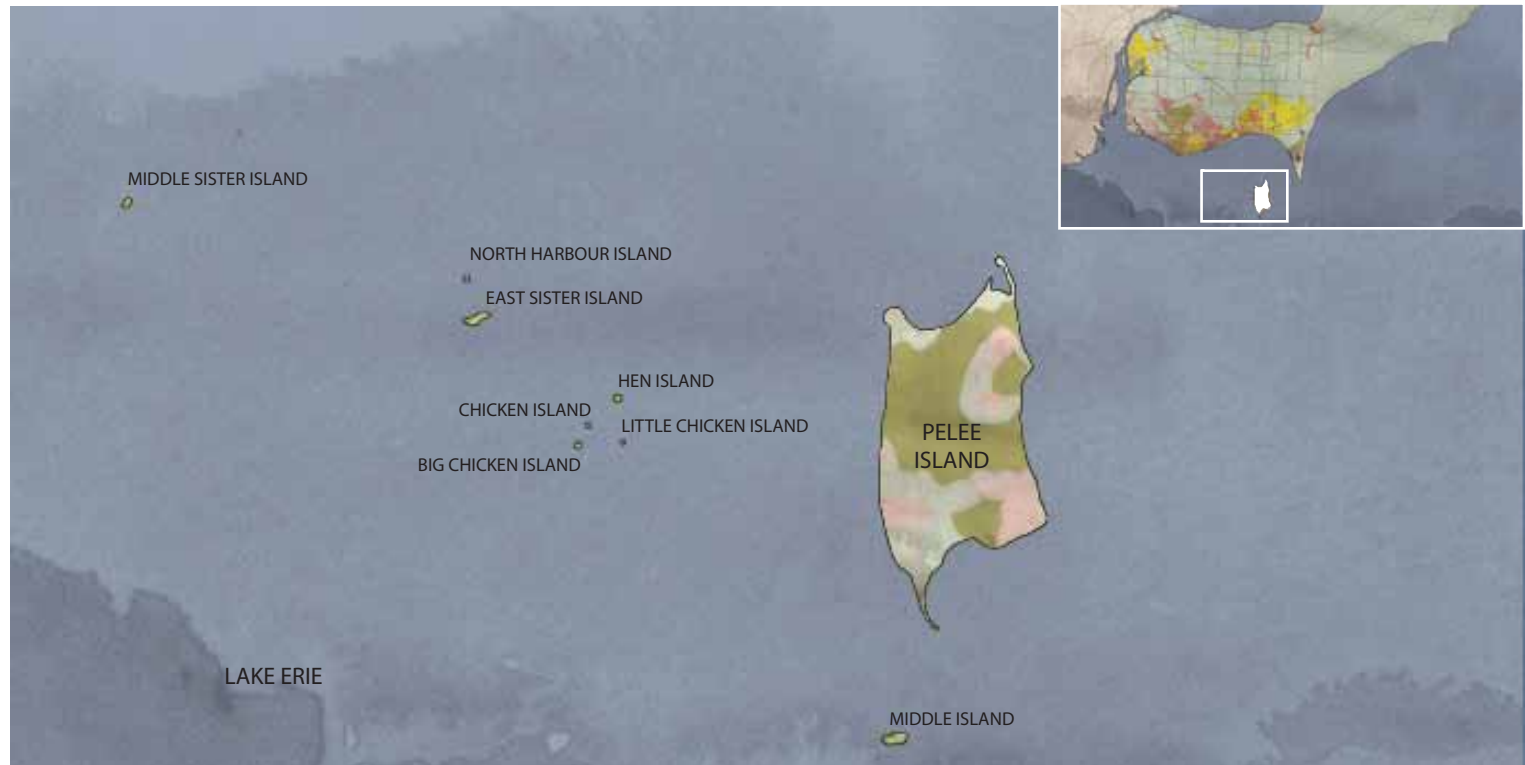
GROWING DEGREE DAYS (AVG.): 1592
 FROST FREE DAYS: 195 (-2°)
 JULY MEAN TEMPERATURE: 23.2°
 GROW SEASON: April to October
 PRECIPITATION: 568mm (grow season)

COMMON VARIETALS: Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Verdot, Pinot Gris
 PRODUCTION (2019 REPORTING YEAR): 7,833
 NUMBER OF APPROVED WINES: 7
 NUMBER OF WINERIES: 1

Soil Characteristics

















This sub-appellation has a soil make up very similar to the mainland in southwestern Ontario, with sandy loam and clay over a limestone bedrock. The soils here have only moderate drainage due to the underlying bedrock but dry out later in the season as dry conditions often prevail later in the season.

The majority of vineyards are planted on the southwestern corner and centre of the island, where the soils are the deepest and allow for root systems to properly set. Careful stewardship of the soils, with the help of drainage canals and protective dykes, have made for a productive experience with viticulture.



COMMON PROPERTIES OF SOIL MAP GROUPS

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, OTTAWA

 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

South Islands

Topography

The topography of the South Islands sub-appellation is simple but ideal for ensuring even sun exposure and ripening. The highest point on the Islands is only 12 meters above the surface of Lake Erie which sits at about 174 meters above sea level.

