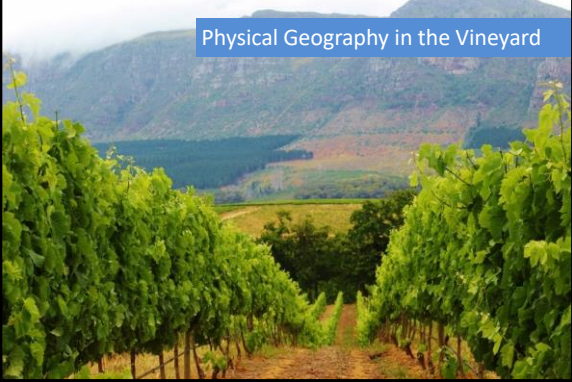


Rías, Benches, Slopes, and Scarps

Physical Geography in the Vineyard



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Latitude

The geographic coordinate that specifies north/south position

The angular distance of a place north or south of the equator

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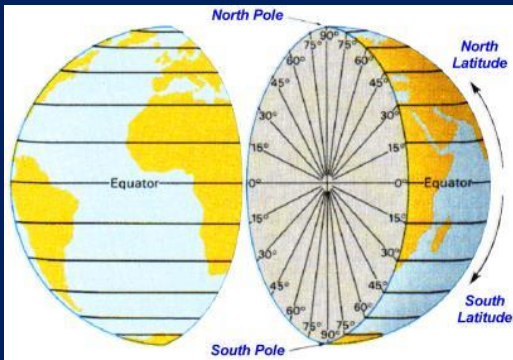
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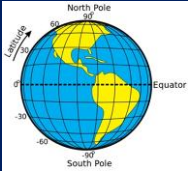
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**Higher Latitudes**

- Closer to the poles
- Cooler climates
- Cooler summer nights
- Longer summer days
- Frost/freeze risks
- Includes the temperate zones



**Lower Latitudes**

- Closer to the equator
- Warmer climates
- Hot summer nights
- Longer winter days
- Messes with winter dormancy
- Includes the tropics



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*Vinifera loves...*

**30° - 50°**

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**Elevation**

Height above sea level.

*High elevation vineyard is an undefined term.*

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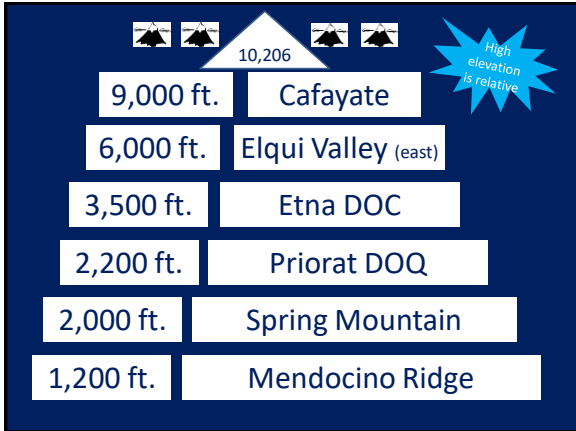
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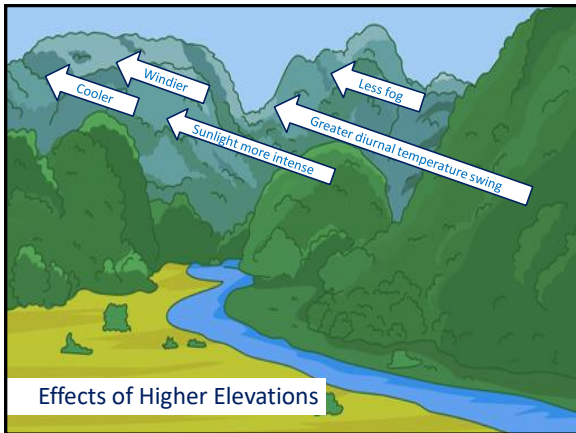
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**Aspect**

The compass direction that a slope faces

In the Northern Hemisphere, a south-facing slope gets the most sun.

In the Southern Hemisphere, a north-facing slope gets the most sun.

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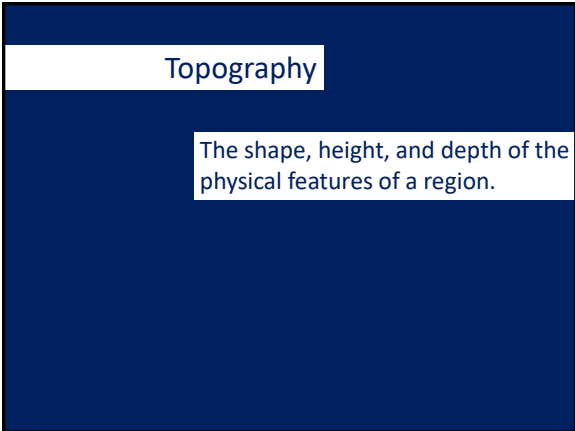
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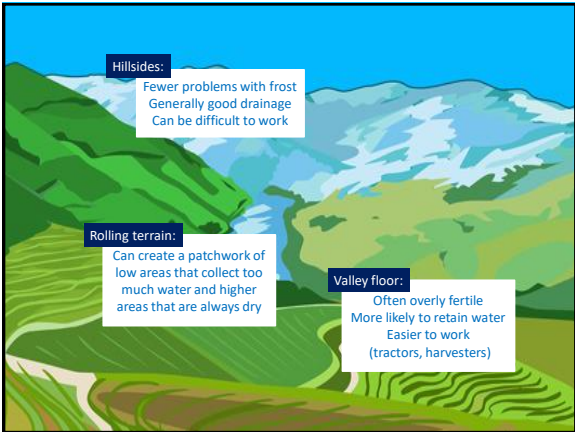
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### Bodies of Water

Water can both absorb heat (without raising its temperature) and retain heat (resist cooling) better than most substances.

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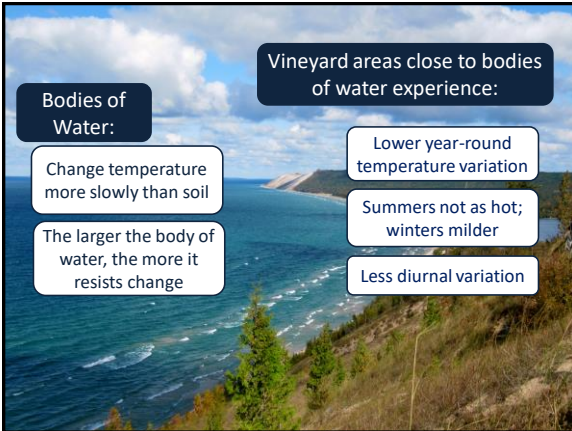
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Rías, Benches, Slopes, and Scarps

Which is:

An area with a sudden change in elevation? \_\_\_\_\_

Referred to as a "côte" ? \_\_\_\_\_

An estuary? \_\_\_\_\_

An area with a gentle incline? \_\_\_\_\_

A body of water where a river flows into the sea? \_\_\_\_\_

A strip of level ground land bounded by steeper slopes above and below it? \_\_\_\_\_

The face of a cliff ? \_\_\_\_\_

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Rías

A ría is a type of estuary.

An estuary is a partially enclosed body of water located where a river or stream flows into the sea.

Rías are drowned river valleys.

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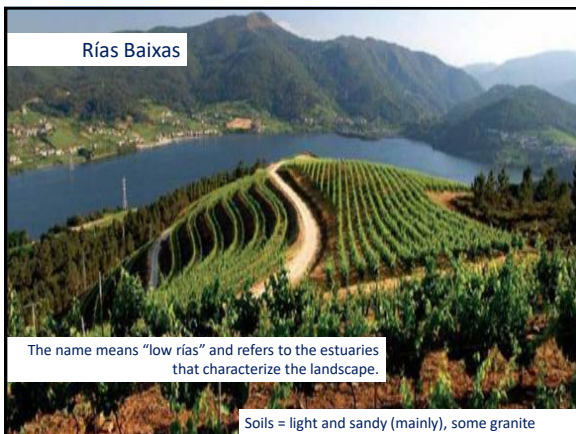
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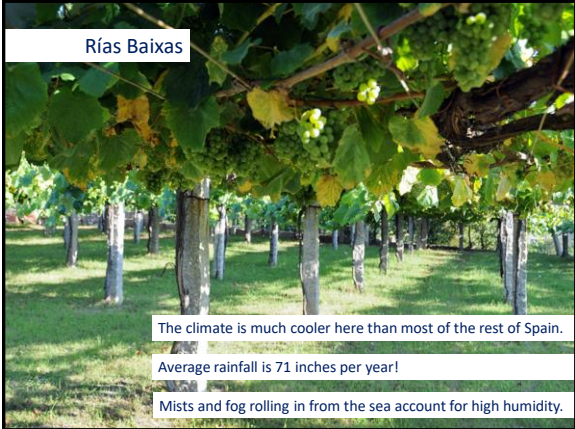
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Rías Baixas

The climate is much cooler here than most of the rest of Spain.  
 Average rainfall is 71 inches per year!  
 Mists and fog rolling in from the sea account for high humidity.

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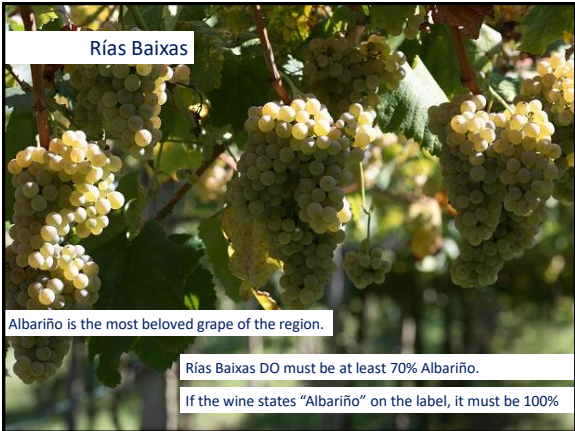
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Rías Baixas

Albariño is the most beloved grape of the region.  
 Rías Baixas DO must be at least 70% Albariño.  
 If the wine states "Albariño" on the label, it must be 100%

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## Scarps

A scarp is the cliff-face of an escarpment.

An escarpment is an area of the earth where the elevation changes suddenly.

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The Niagara Escarpment



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Map via: <https://www.geocaching.com>

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The AVA extends for 30 miles along the edge of the 650-mile long ridge

The AVA has elevations between 400 ft and 600 ft

The scarp has a warming effect: Cold air streams off the ridge down to the water, and warmer air from the lake rises to the upper layers of the Escarpment "Lake Effect"

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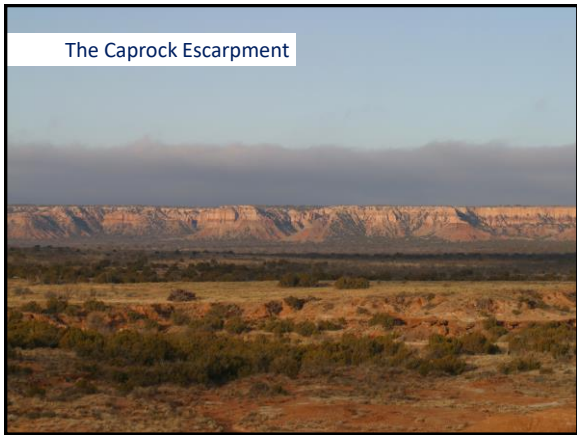
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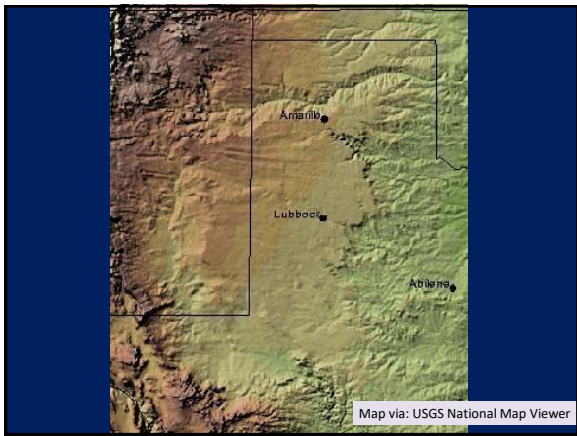
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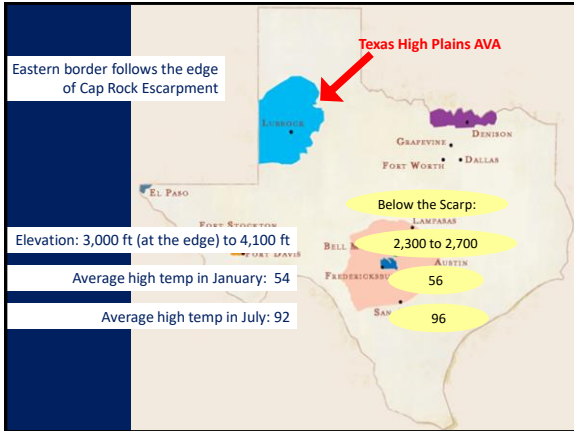
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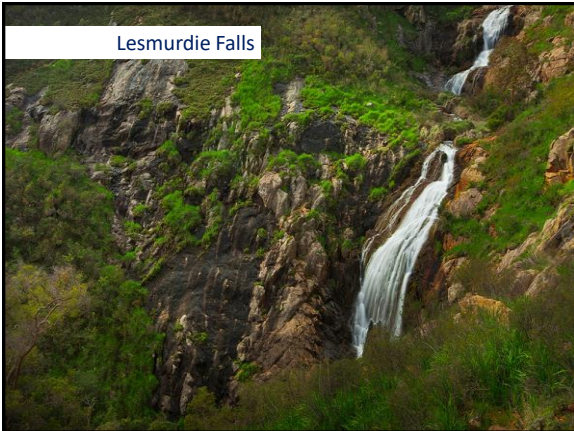
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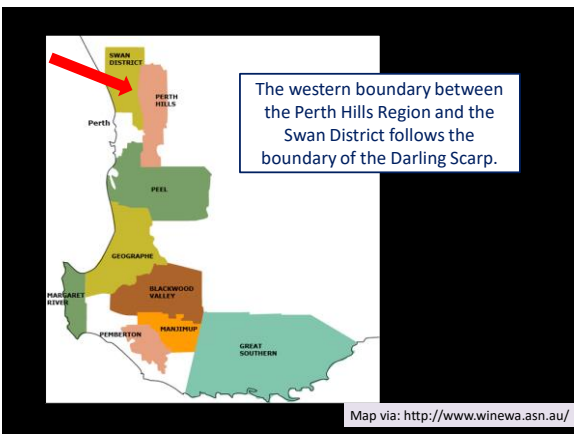
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<b>Swan District: Below the Scarp:</b>		<b>Perth Hills Atop the Scarp:</b>
Sea level-150 ft.		1,000-1,400 ft.
Warm-to-hot Mediterranean	Climate	Warm days/cold nights
76°F	Avg. January Temp	73°F
Coast: Sand/limestone Valleys: Red loam/alluvial Hills: Sand over clay	Soil	Gravelly loam
	Harvest Dates	10 days - 2 weeks later than the Swan District!

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# Slopes

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**Slopes**

An inclined piece of ground.

In geography, the term is often used to refer to foothills.

In French - Côte

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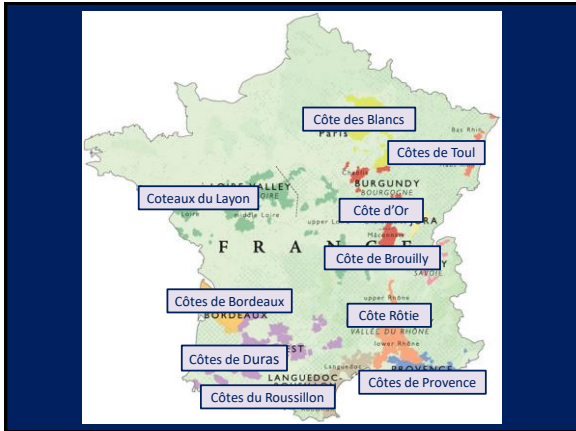
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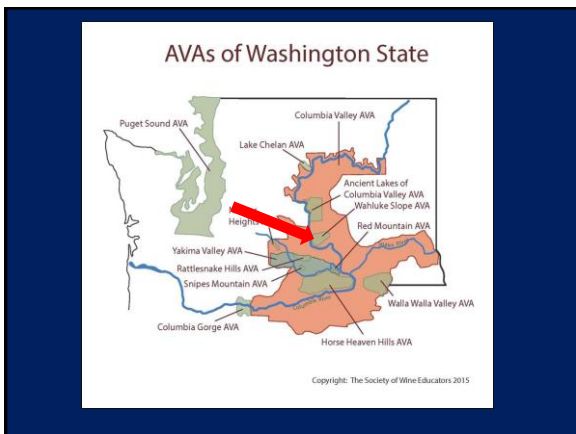
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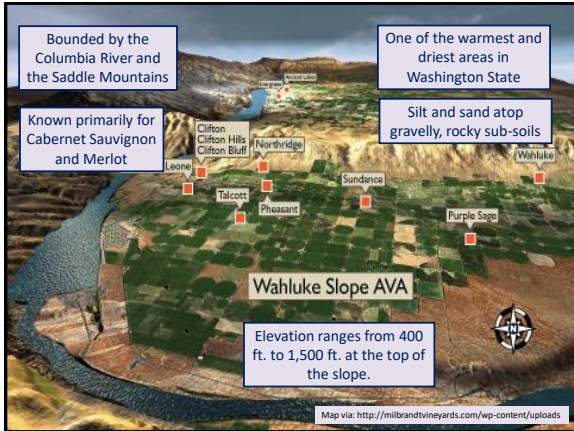
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# Benches

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**Benches**

A bench is a long, narrow strip of relatively level land bounded by distinctly steeper slopes above and below it.

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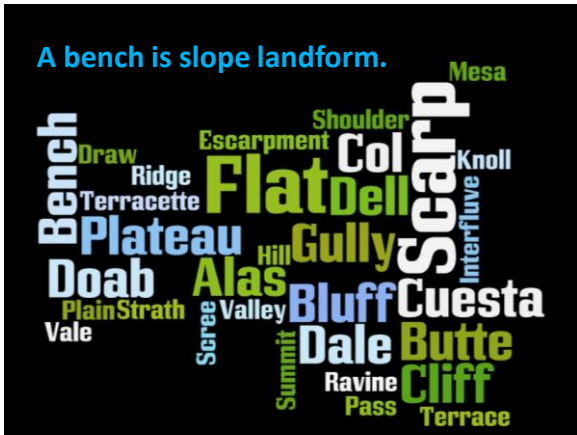
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A bench is slope landform.




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It is also considered a fluvial landform.




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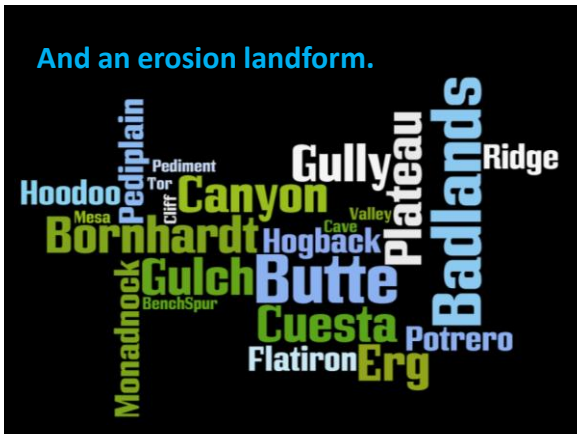
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And an erosion landform.




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A bench is a long, narrow strip of relatively level land bounded by distinctly steeper slopes above and below it.

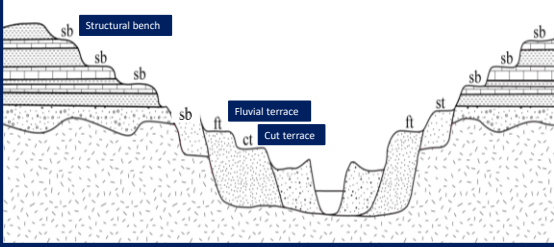


Image by Cristellaria, via Wikimedia Commons

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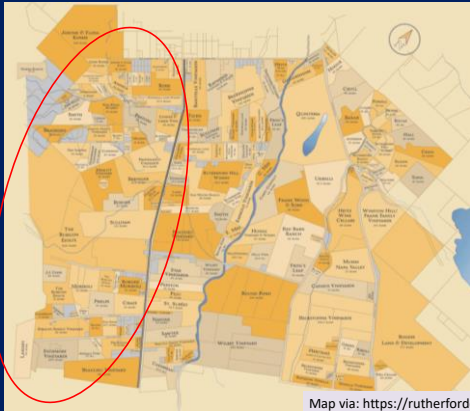
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Map via: <https://rutherforddust.org>

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Kelsey Bench – Lake County AVA

Short Hills Bench – VQA Ontario

Twenty-Mile Bench – VQA Ontario

St. David's Bench – VQA Ontario

Beamsville Bench – VQA Ontario

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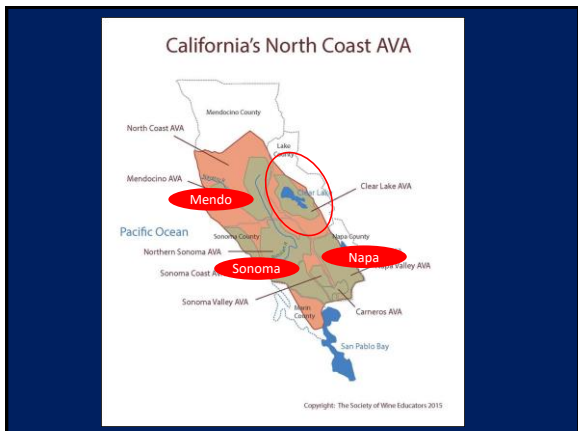
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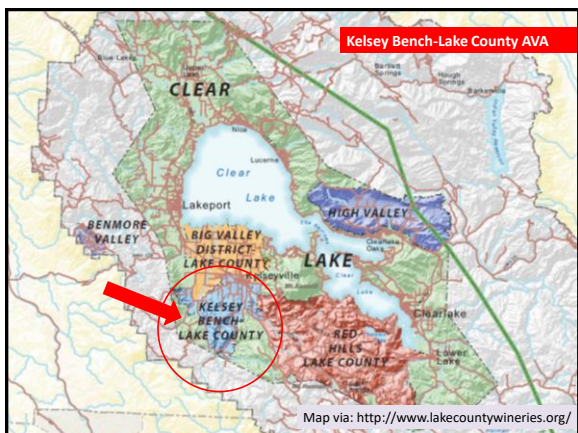
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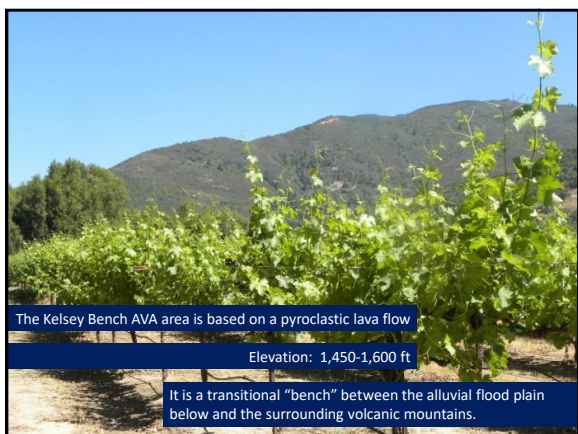
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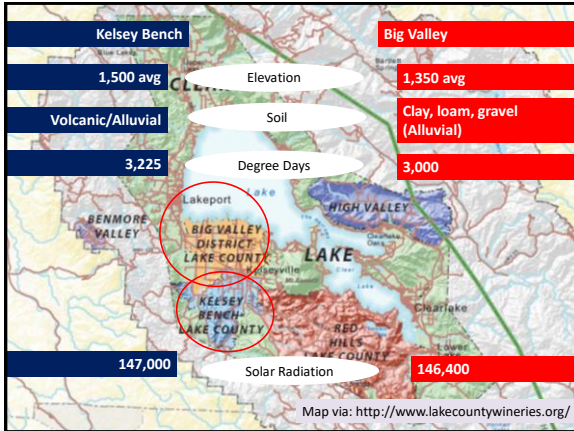
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