
Chapter 35

Canada



Wine regions

- Climate: **Continental** (low annual temp but July/Aug very hot)
- Large lakes moderate extremes
- Freezing winters = perfect conditions for Ice wine

Ontario (3 DVAs)

Niagara Peninsula

- SW of Lake Ontario.
 - Cools down/heats area slowly.
 - Extends growing season/delays spring budburst (minimises frost damage).
 - Air flow = reduces fungal disease
- **Riesling** = **dry/off-dry/fresh/fruity. Ice wine.**
- **Vidal** (hybrid) = **high quality Ice wine** (not as aromatic/acid structure as Riesling)
- **Chardonnay** = dry/restrained/no oak
- **PN/Cab Franc/Cab Sauv/Merlot**

British Columbia (5 DVAs)

Okanagan Valley

- Between two mountain ranges (low annual rainfall/semi-desert)
- Long day length (northern latitude) = prolongs the time for photosynthesis - grapes ripen
- Large glacial lakes moderate temperature and extend the growing season. White grapes (N) + black grapes (S)
- **Merlot/PN/Pinot Gris/Chard. Ice wine - Riesling/Vidal**

Canada Wine Laws

- Appellation system = **Vintners Quality Alliance (VQA)** (Ontario/BC)
 - Smaller **Designated Viticultural Areas (DVAs)**
 - Regional appellations and subregional appellations
 - 100% of grapes from VQA province/V. Vinifera or hybrid
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Multiple Choice Practice Questions

1) Which Canadian AVA is situated between two mountain ranges - ensuring semi-desert like conditions?

- a) Ontario
- b) Niagara Peninsula
- c) Okanagan Valley
- d) Napa Valley

2) The freezing conditions of Canada's wine growing regions make it optimal for the production of?

- a) Red wines
- b) Fortified wines
- c) Ice wines
- d) Sparkling wines

3) Despite the cold Canadian temperatures, what topographical feature moderates this climate?

- a) Large lakes
- b) Strong winds
- c) Ocean breezes
- d) Warm springs

4) What does the Canadian DVA system stand for?

- a) Delineated Viticultural Areas
- b) Designated Viticultural Areas
- c) Small Viticultural Areas
- d) Designated Vineyard Areas

5) In which region of Canada would you find the Niagara Peninsula?

- a) British Columbia
- b) Oregon
- c) New York
- d) Ontario

Answers

1. c) Okanagan Valley

2. c) Ice wines

3. a) Large lakes

4. b) Designated Viticultural Areas

5. d) Ontario