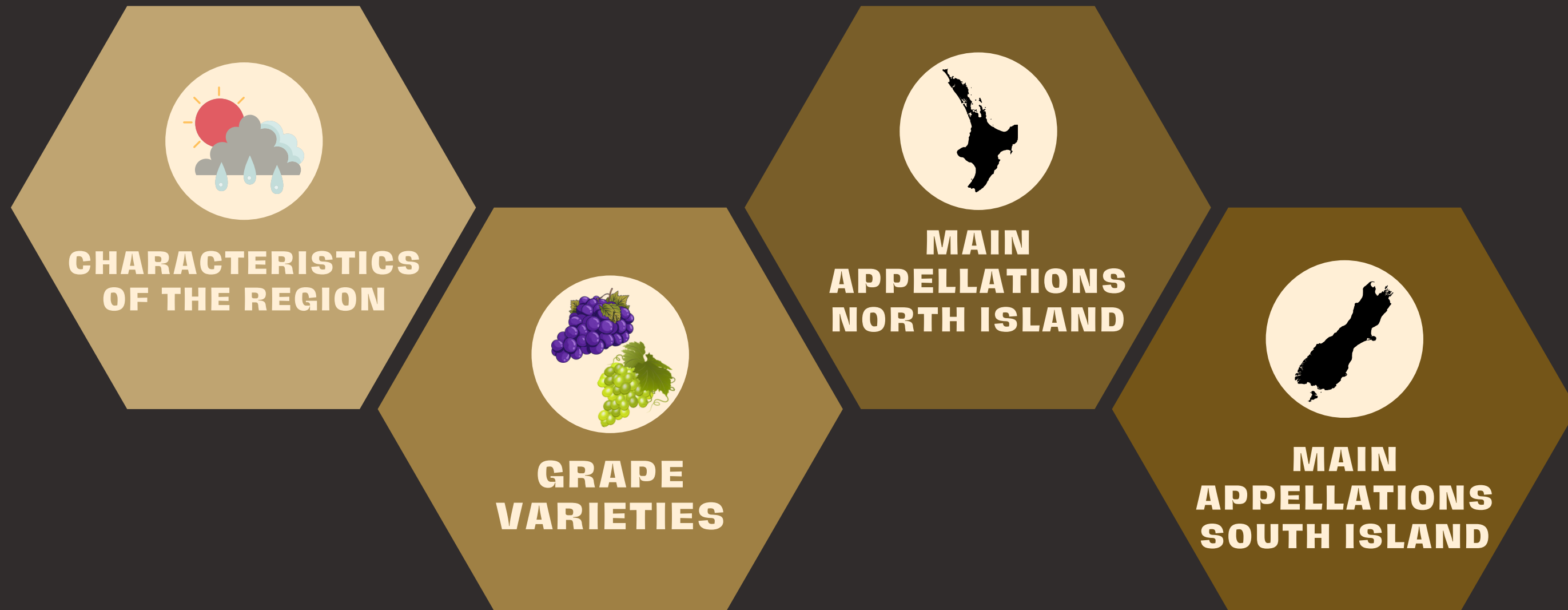


NEW ZEALAND



CHAPTER 40

An understanding of New Zealand's wine regions



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CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REGION



New Zealand experiences Maritime climate. The South's Island climate is cool whereas the North Island is a little warmer.



The long sunshine hours allows the grape to fully ripen.



The vineyards of the South Island tend to be located on the east, where they are protected by the Southern Alps from the westerly winds and rains.



Free draining soils and trellising techniques help the winemakers against the rainfalls.



GRAPE VARIETIES

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BLACK VARIETIES

Pinot Noir is the second most planted variety in New Zealand, widely in the South Island and in a few selected sites in the North Island. It produces fruity wines, with ripe tannins and often a high level of alcohol.

Merlot and **Cabernet Sauvignon** are also grown (mostly in the warmer North Island) and blended to produce Bordeaux style blend with high tannins and cassis notes.

Planting of **Syrah** in the warmest sites of the country is also increasing.



WHITE VARIETIES

Sauvignon Blanc is New Zealand's flagship variety and accounts for the majority of the production. The warmer North produces **Sauvignon Blanc** with more tropical flavours and the South produces wines with higher acidity and green bell pepper notes.

Chardonnay is also widely planted and produce a great diversity of wines, often in a fruity style (citrus, tropical fruits).

Riesling and **Pinot Gris** are increasingly planted as well.



REGIONS AND WINES

✦ **Auckland** is warm and the wettest part of New Zealand, fungal disease are therefore an issue. **Chardonnay**, **Merlot** and **Syrah** are the most widely planted.



✦ **Gisborne** experiences high rainfalls and sunshine hours in the growing season. **Chardonnay** is widely planted, producing ripe tropical fruits notes.



✦ **Hawke's Bay** is the warmest growing area, with long sunshine hours. It has built a strong reputation for black varieties like **Merlot**, **Cabernet Sauvignon** and **Syrah**.



✦ **Wairarapa** has built a strong reputation for medium-bodied **Pinot Noir**, especially in **Martinborough** with its high temperatures and wide diurnal range.



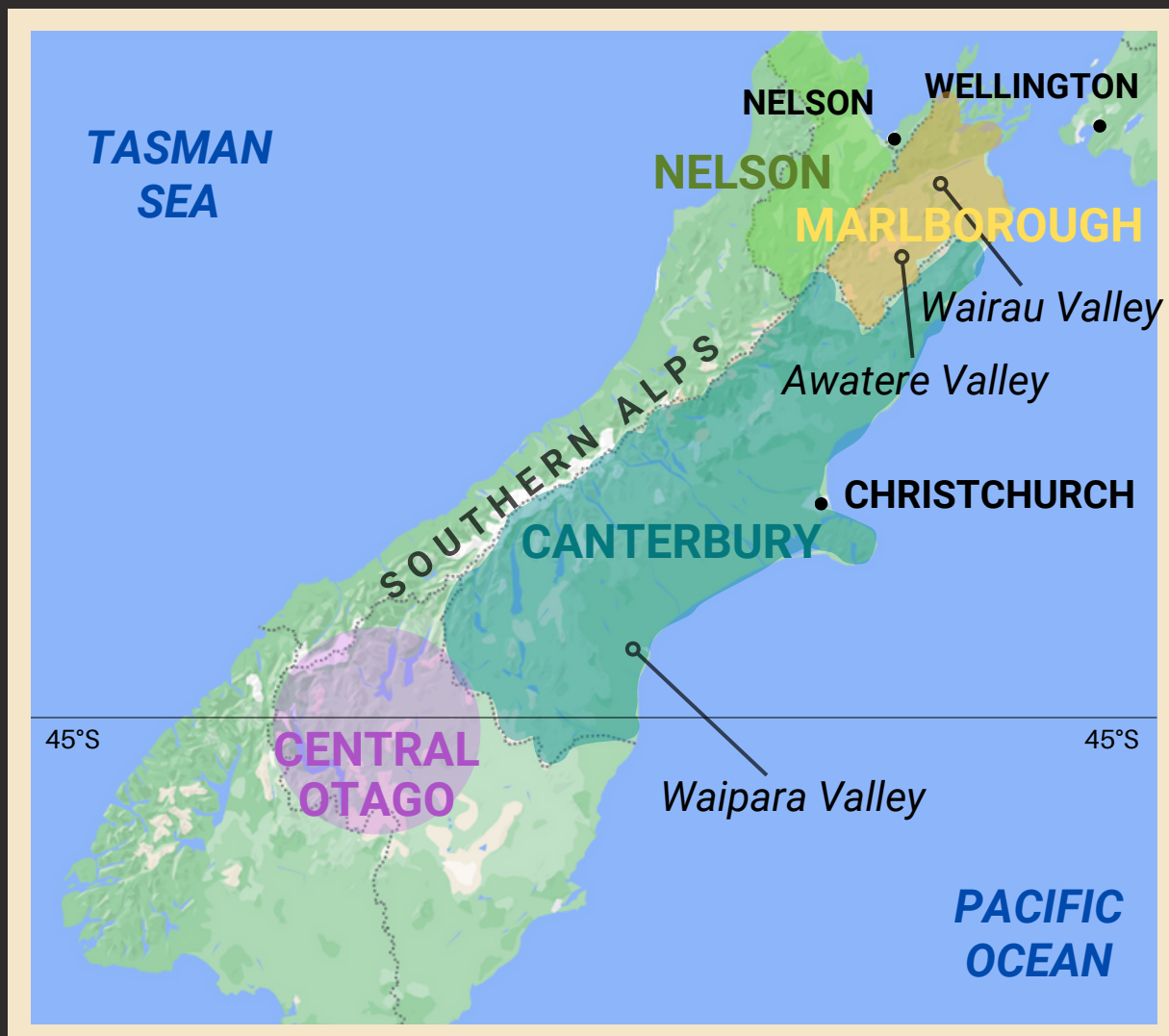
NORTH ISLAND



REGIONS AND WINES



SOUTH ISLAND



Marlborough has two valleys, Wairau with long sunny days with a range of aspects and altitude, and the drier, cooler and windier Awatere Valley. **Sauvignon Blanc** is the main variety but **Pinot Noir** and **Chardonnay** are also produced.



Nelson is cooler and wetter than Marlborough and produces **Sauvignon Blanc**, **Pinot Noir** and **Pinot Gris**.



Canterbury is exposed to the warming effect of the north westerly winds, especially in the **Waipara Valley** where **Sauvignon Blanc**, **Pinot Noir** and **Riesling** are produced.



Central Otago has a continental climate and a variety of aspects, soils and altitudes. The high intensity of sunlight accounts for the high alcohol in the **Pinot Noir** produced.