

# Volcanic Wines

*How Soils in Volcanic Regions Create 'Intensity of Place'*



**WINE ENTHUSIAST**  
VIRTUAL EVENTS



# Our host and speakers

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VIRTUAL EVENTS

**LAKE COUNTY**  
WINEGROWERS



**Jim Gordon**

Contributing Editor  
(reviews wines from  
California)  
*Wine Enthusiast*



**John Szabo**

Master Sommelier  
*WineAlign.com*



**Peter Molnar**

Partner  
*Obsidian Wine Company*



**Joy Merrilees**

Director of Winemaking &  
Production  
*Shannon Ridge Family of Wines*

# How to ask questions during our webinar

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Step 1

Attendee  
Tool Bar



Step 2

Questions

Click to Ask  
Us A Question

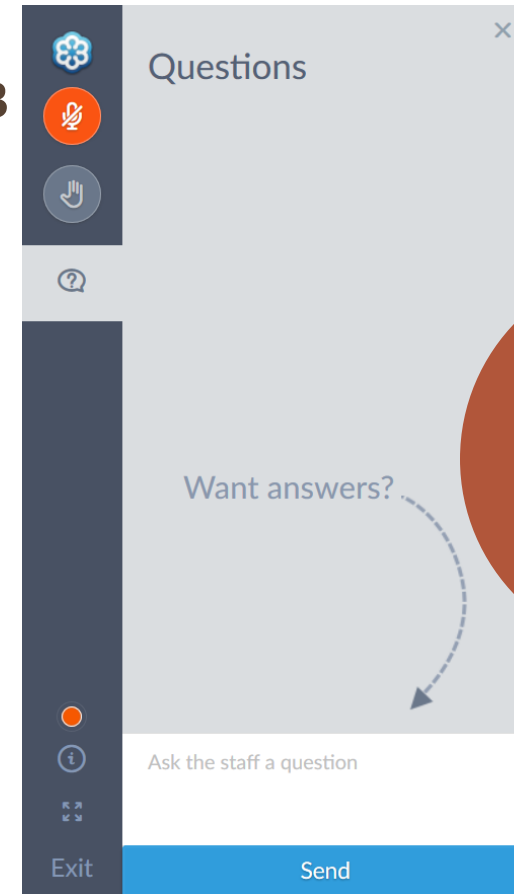


Step 3

Questions

Want answers?

Type Your  
Question  
Here





# What are volcanic wines?

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*Wines grown on  
volcanic soils come  
in a radiant,  
infinitely nuanced  
rainbow of colours,  
tastes, and flavors*

— JS

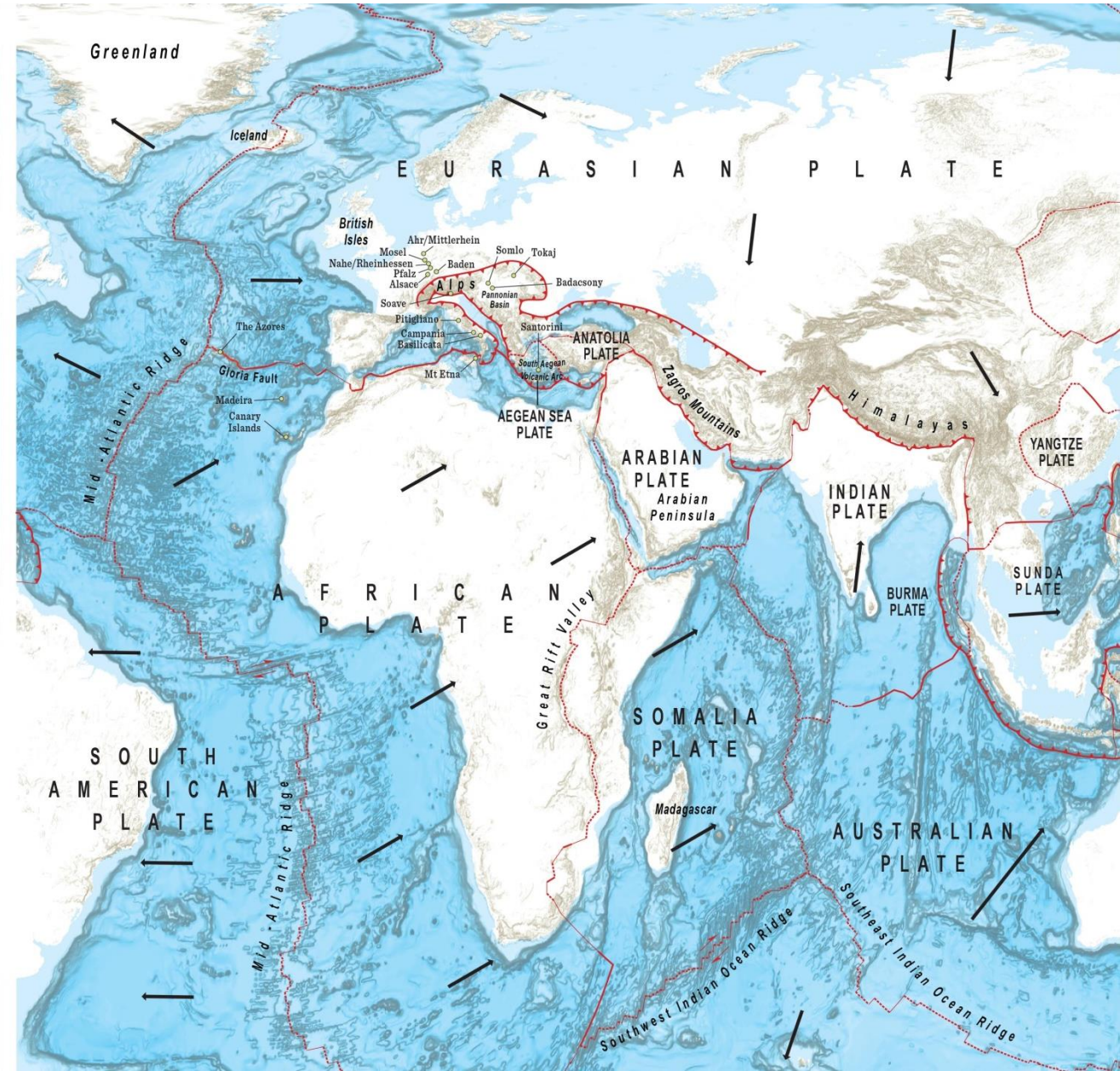
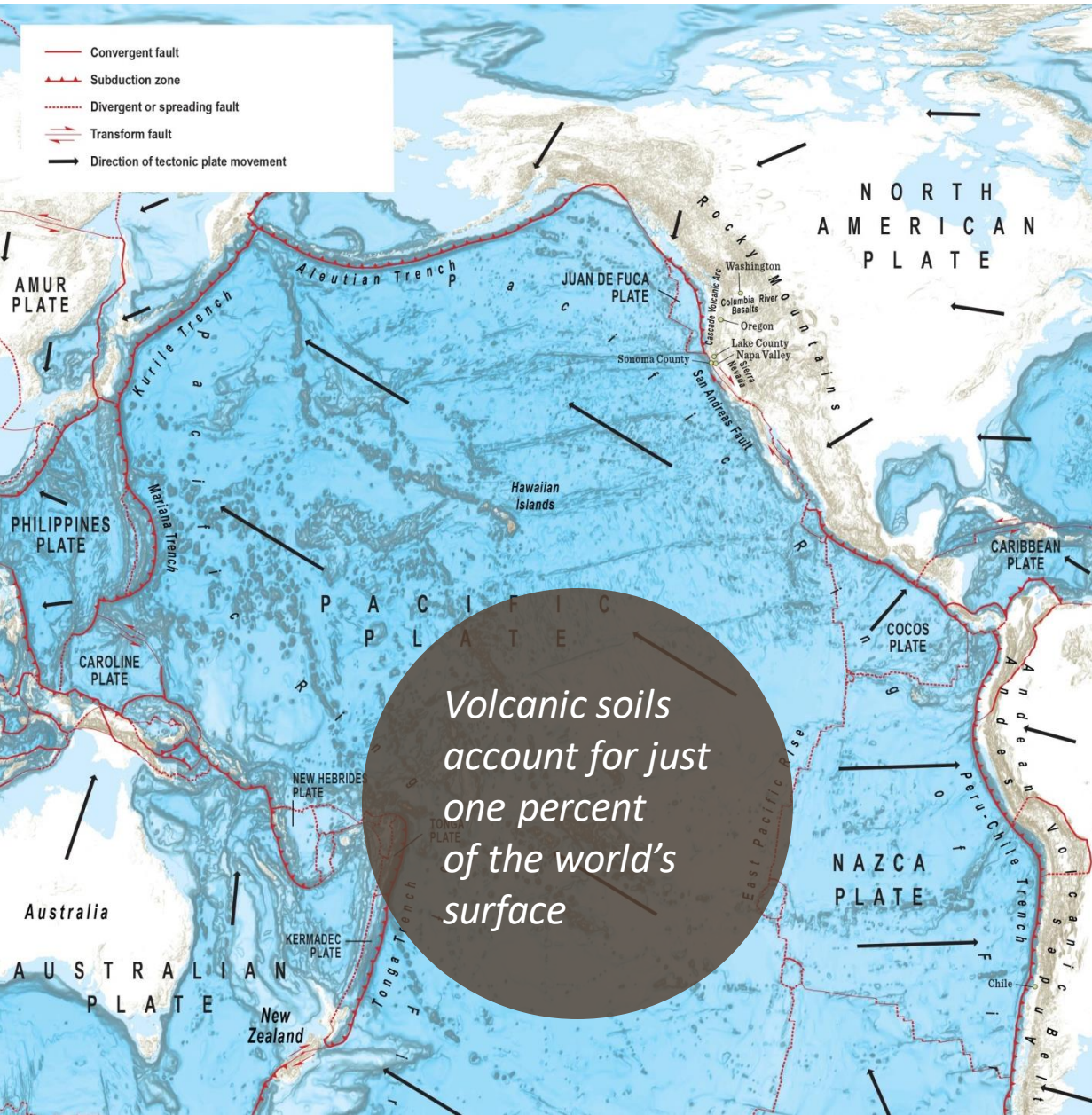




# What are the key volcanic regions for winegrowing around the world?

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# What are the key volcanic regions for winegrowing around the world?

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# Why is Lake County considered a volcanic region?





How unique is Lake County among the world's winegrowing regions?

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Shards of volcanic obsidian  
are found throughout Lake  
County vineyards



# Volcanic remnants: obsidian and Lake County 'diamonds'

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# Lake County overview – the mountains of the North Coast

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*Why is this volcanic region so distinct?*

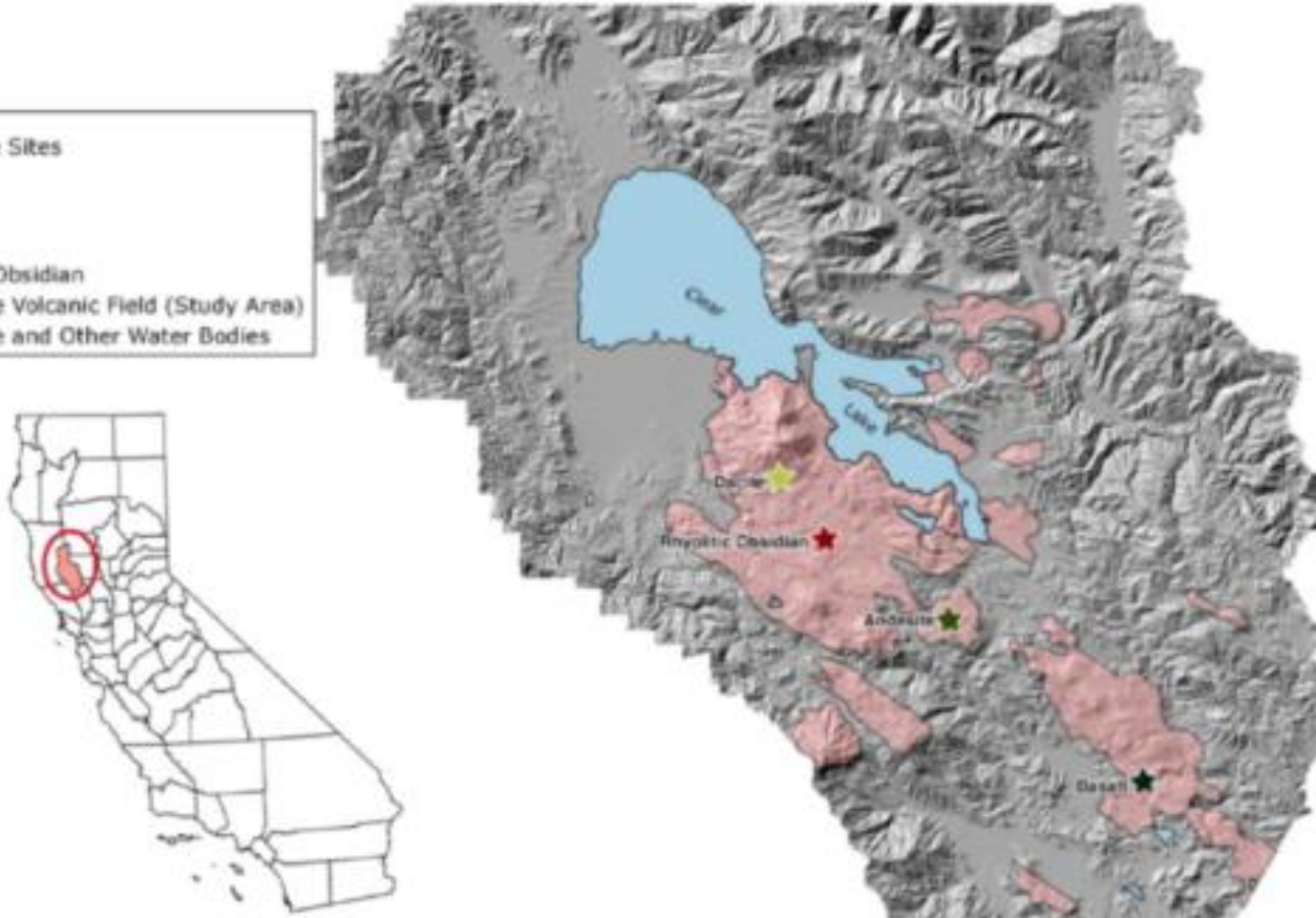
- ✓ *High elevation*
- ✓ *Luminous sunlight*
- ✓ *Diurnal temp swings*
- ✓ *Young volcanic soils*
- ✓ *Mountain fruit*





Lithosequence Sites

- ★ Andesite
- ★ Basalt
- ★ Dacite
- ★ Rhyolitic Obsidian
- Clear Lake Volcanic Field (Study Area)
- Clear Lake and Other Water Bodies





# Red Hills & High Valley: Why are these Lake County AVAs so important to the conversation?

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- A. Clear Lake AVA
- B. Benmore Valley AVA
- C. High Valley AVA**
- D. Big Valley District AVA
- E. Kelsey Bench AVA
- F. Red Hills AVA**
- G. Guenoc Valley AVA



*The Lake County wine region is part of California's North Coast AVA, which also includes Mendocino, Sonoma, and Napa. Sparsely populated, rugged, and mountainous, Lake County features some of the highest vineyards in the state.*





What is it like to grow wine (especially Cab) in Red Hills?

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**Peter Molnar**  
Partner *Obsidian Wine*  
*Company*

# Winegrower's Perspective: Red Hills



How do you approach volcanic vineyards (such as those in High Valley) differently from other vineyards?

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**Joy Merrilees**

Director of Winemaking and Production  
*Shannon Ridge Family of Wines*

# Winemaker's Perspective: High Valley





# What are the advantages and challenges of making wine in a volcanic region?

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**+5% to 16%**

HIGHER UV INTENSITY

Bright sun and clean air  
result in winegrapes with  
concentrated phenolics.



# How do we describe volcanic wines for consumers?

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Warm summer days  
and cool nights create  
wines with complexity  
and finesse.






# What do consumers need to know about this category and about Lake County specifically?

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*Distinct from other volcanic regions, Lake County grows Cabernet Sauvignon in young volcanic soils at high elevations – resulting in a purity, an intensity of place*





# Question & Answer

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NORTH COAST | CALIFORNIA



[www.LakeCountyWinegrape.org](http://www.LakeCountyWinegrape.org)  
YouTube: LakeCountyWineGrape