GUIDE TO THE UCO VALLEY TERROIR

ZUCCARDI

VALLE DE UCO

WINEMAKING REGIONS IN ARGENTINA

ARGENTINA

- 7th largest wine producer in the world
- 8th largest wine exporter in the world
- 9th country in terms of wine consumption
- 211,000 hectares of vineyards
- 99% of Argentine winegrowing is connected with the Andes mountain range.

Over the past few years, the geography of Argentina's winemaking regions has experienced a number of changes. Areas for growing have been actively developed and extended considerably in all directions: toward the north, all the way up to Jujuy; toward the south, in Chubut; and toward the Atlantic Coast, in Chapadmalal.

In Mendoza, winegrowing has been taking place at increasingly higher altitudes of up to 2000 masl.

The latitude and altitude are key factors.

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Sources: Wines of Argentina (Map) & OIV · Actualidad de la coyuntura del Sector Vitivinícola Mundial en 2021 (April 2022)

GROWING IN THE DESERT

Mendoza can be best described as a desert with scarce rainfall, no oceanic influence, and a highly continental climate.

The map on the right shows how green Chile is and the predominantly arid nature of the Mendoza province. Winds coming from the Pacific Ocean release their moisture in the form of rain and snow on the Chilean side of the Andes and pass over dry to the Argentinean side of the mountain range.

Only 3% of Mendoza´s surface is cultivated. These growing oases, shown in green on the map, are located in areas close to several rivers. Water in Mendoza is as vital a resource as it is scarce.

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RIVERS

The map on the right shows where the main growing areas in Mendoza are: in the Center, North, and Eastern regions of the province.

Uco Valley, 100 km (62 miles) southwest from the city of Mendoza, constitutes the winegrowing region that is closest to the mountains, which turns it into an altitude desert, between 900 and 1700 masl (2950 and 5580 fasl). This means average temperatures here are colder than in other areas at a lower altitude.

The Tunuyán River is key to Mendoza, as it is the river that irrigates the most hectares across the province. It also connects the growing oases in Uco Valley and the East, as it feeds water into both areas: straight from the Andes, in the case of Uco Valley, and from El Carrizal Dam, in the East.

THE MOUNTAIN

- **Principal Range:** This mountain range features the highest peaks, such as the Aconcagua (6961m | 22.838 ft), and is made up of igneous rocks (granite) and sedimentary rocks, including limestone, which is a calcareous material that originated in the sea.

- **Frontal Range:** This is where Cordón del Plata and Cordón del Portillo are to be found. This range is made up mainly of igneous rocks (granite and rhyolite).

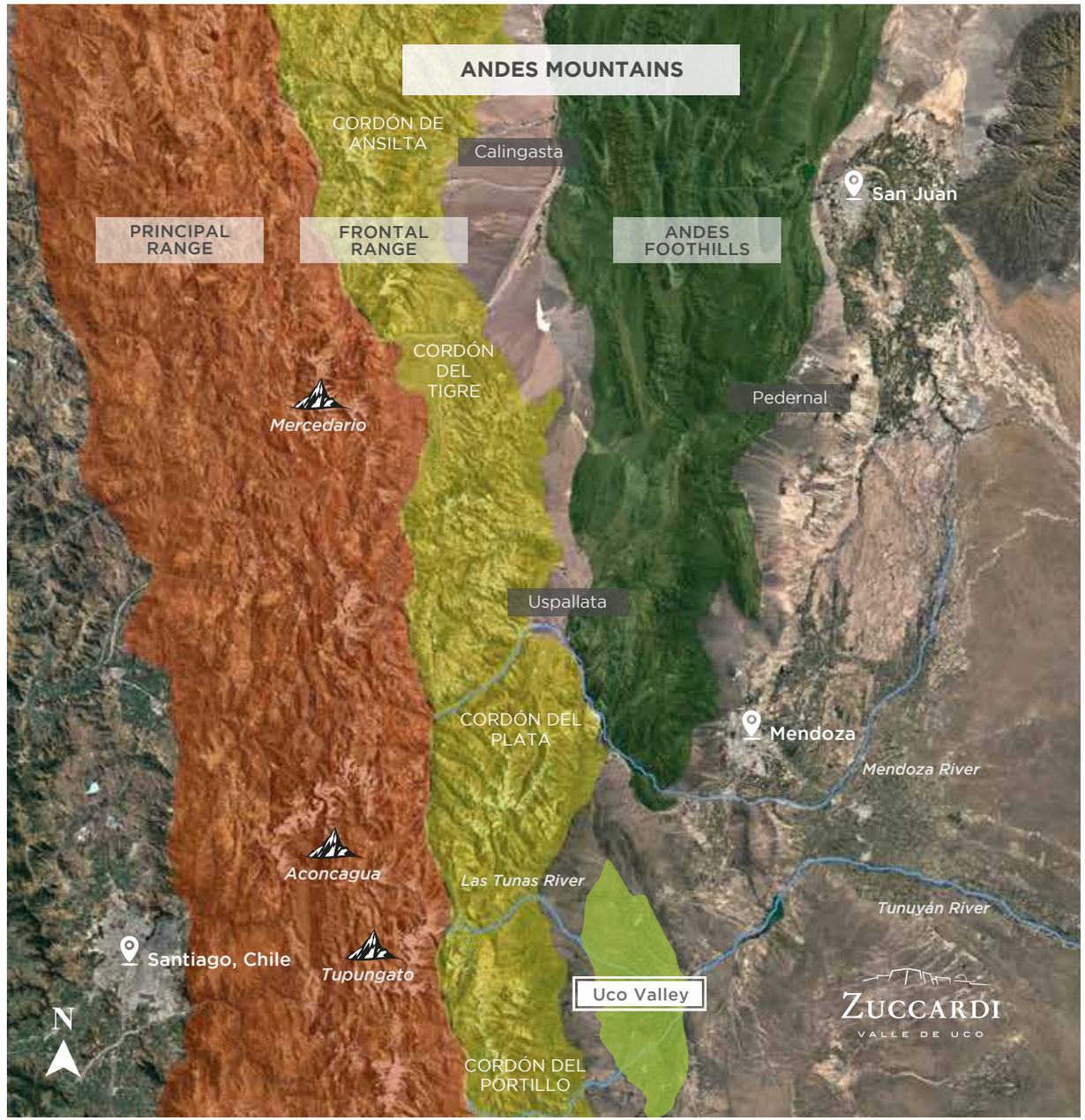
- **Andes Foothills (Precordillera):** A series of ridges standing at lower altitudes along the mountain range.

The Uco Valley is in direct contact with the frontal range of the Andes, as the Andes foothills extend only down to the Mendoza River.

The cultivated soils in Mendoza are mostly of alluvial origin, composed of materials and sediments that streamed down the mountains millions of years ago, transported by alluvial processes.

Depending on which sector of the Andes an alluvial deposit originated from, it will determine the composition of the soils, as each sector of the Andes has a different geology. Also, the location of an area within the alluvial fan will generate different types of soil.

All of this speaks to the great diversity present in our soils.



ALTITUDE

When analyzing Uco Valley's political map, three districts can be identified:

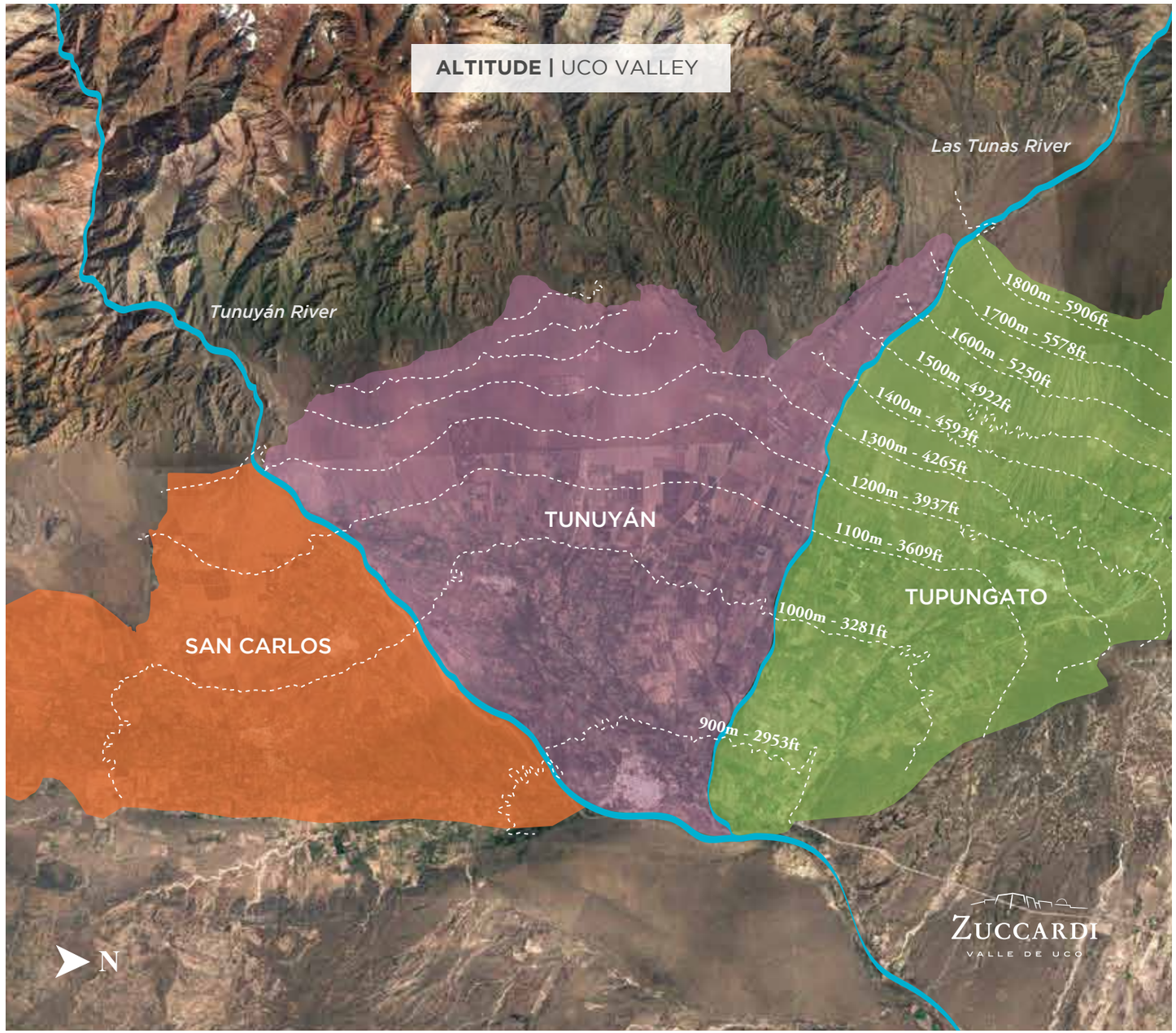
- **Tupungato, in the north;**
- **Tunuyán, in the center;**
- **San Carlos, in the south.**

Las Tunas River marks the natural boundary between Tupungato and Tunuyán, while Tunuyán River marks the boundary between Tunuyán and San Carlos.

Altitude information is available on the map and reveals, upon a closer look, that altitudes vary greatly in just a few kilometers, which results in a wide array of climate conditions in very short distances. In Tupungato, for example, a distance as short as 35 km (22 miles) means a shift in altitude from 900 to 1800 masl (2950 to 5900 feet).

As altitude increases, temperatures, in turn, tend to decrease. Climate variables are also affected by the slope angle, the level of sun exposure, and the relative closeness to the mountain.

The natural boundary of any growing area is subject to water availability and extreme temperatures.



Uco Valley

RANGE OF WINES

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Wines that show the uniqueness of a specific parcel within the family´s estate vineyard.

Wines that express the identity of the family's vineyards in the Uco Valley.

Wines that show the identity of a subzone within a village of the Uco Valley that stands out for its distinct climate and soil characteristics.

Wines that show Zuccardi's interpretation: unique expressions honoring the history of the family, a particular region, or grape variety.

Wines that show the identity of a single village (Geographical Indication) of the Uco Valley, through different varieties.

Wines made from Argentina and Mendoza´s most important grape varieties, from regions that we consider most representative for each variety.

VILLAGES

The map on the right shows a detail of the villages in Uco Valley, some of which have already become Geographical Indications (GI). Each village is located at a different position with respect to the mountains, which means, in turn, different altitudes, temperatures, soils, topography and landscapes, ultimately leading to different characteristics that can be found in our wines.

The highest areas in the Uco Valley were developed not too long ago, after the incorporation of drip irrigation techniques. Because these areas are standing at the highest points in the alluvial fans, they offer great soil variability.

Sites such as Paraje Altamira, Gualtallary and San Pablo are characterized by their stony soils and significant calcium carbonate content.

Polígonos is our line of wines that show the identity of a single village (Geographical Indication) of the Uco Valley, through different varieties.

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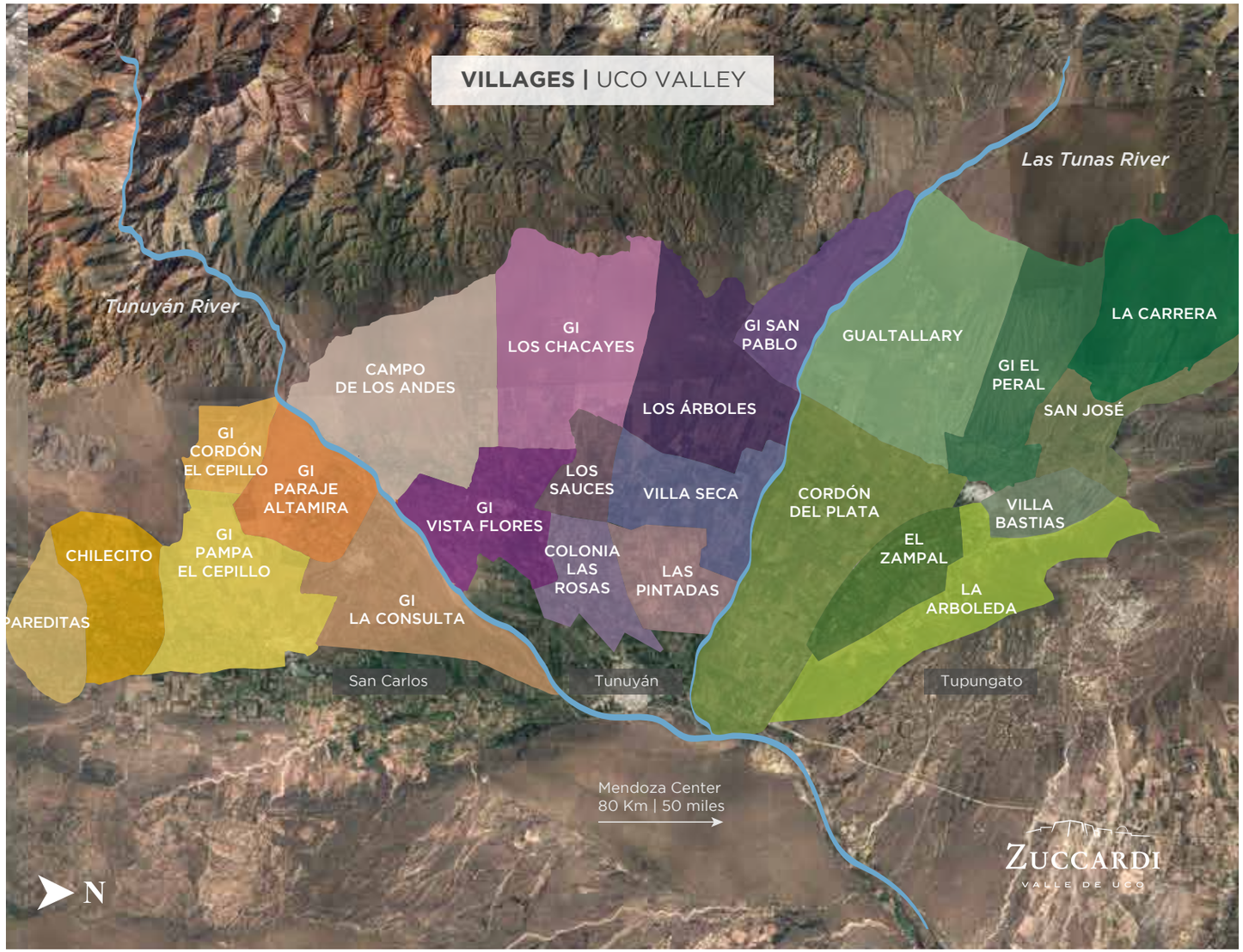

PARAJES OR SPECIAL SITES

At the heart of every village in Uco Valley lie a series of Parajes - sites with a unique identity of their own.

In crafting Fósil, Botánico and Aluvional, we have selected the parajes of each village that we consider most outstanding for their distinct climate and soil characteristics.

Fósil is made with grapes from "San Pablo Estancia" in GI San Pablo.

Botánico - "Monasterio" in Gualtallary.

Aluvional Paraje Altamira - "Altamira South" in GI Paraje Altamira.

Aluvional Gualtallary - “Monasterio" in Gualtallary.

Aluvional Los Chacayes - "Los Chacayes South" in GI Los Chacayes.

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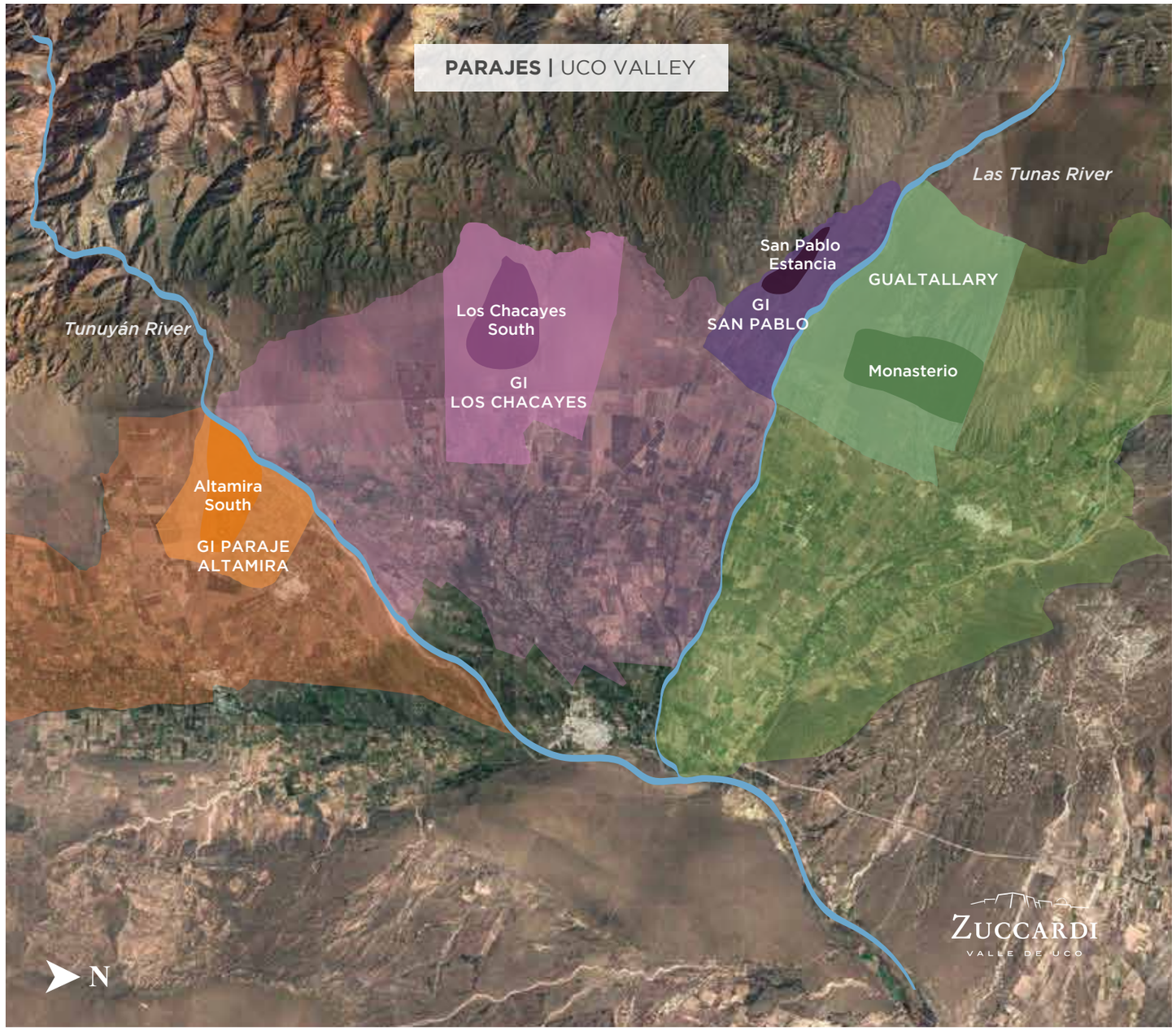

ESTATE VINEYARDS

Zuccardi has the mission to faithfully interpret the diversity of each place to express its identity in the wine.

Each Finca wine expresses the identity of a single vineyard among the family's estate vineyards in the Uco Valley.

In Paraje Altamira:
- Finca Canal Uco
- Finca Piedra Infinita
- Finca Los Membrillos

In San Pablo:
- Finca Las Cuchillas

In Gualtallary:
- Finca Las Cerrilladas
- Finca Agua de La Jarilla
- Finca La Oculta

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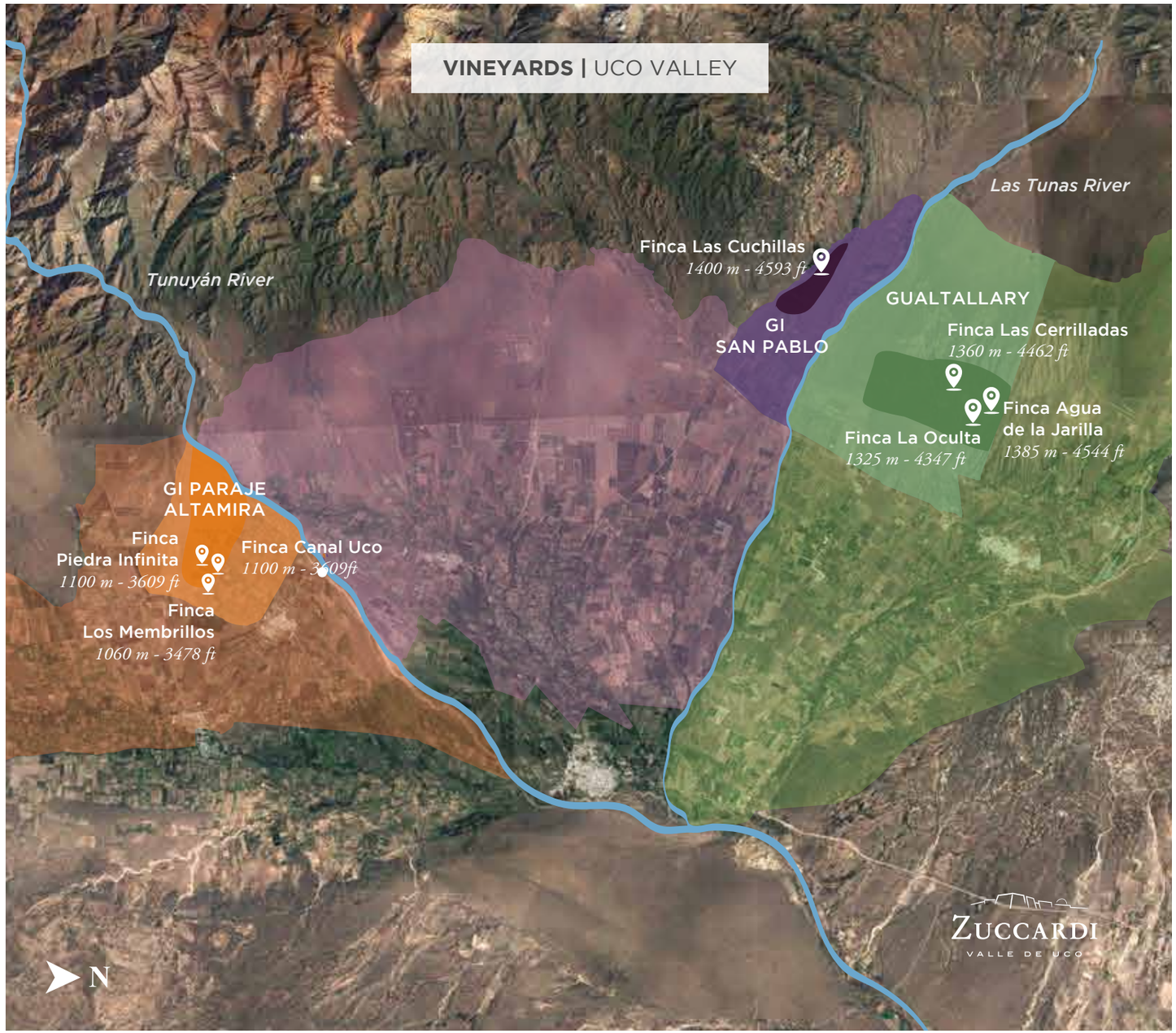


THE MAIN ALLUVIAL FANS

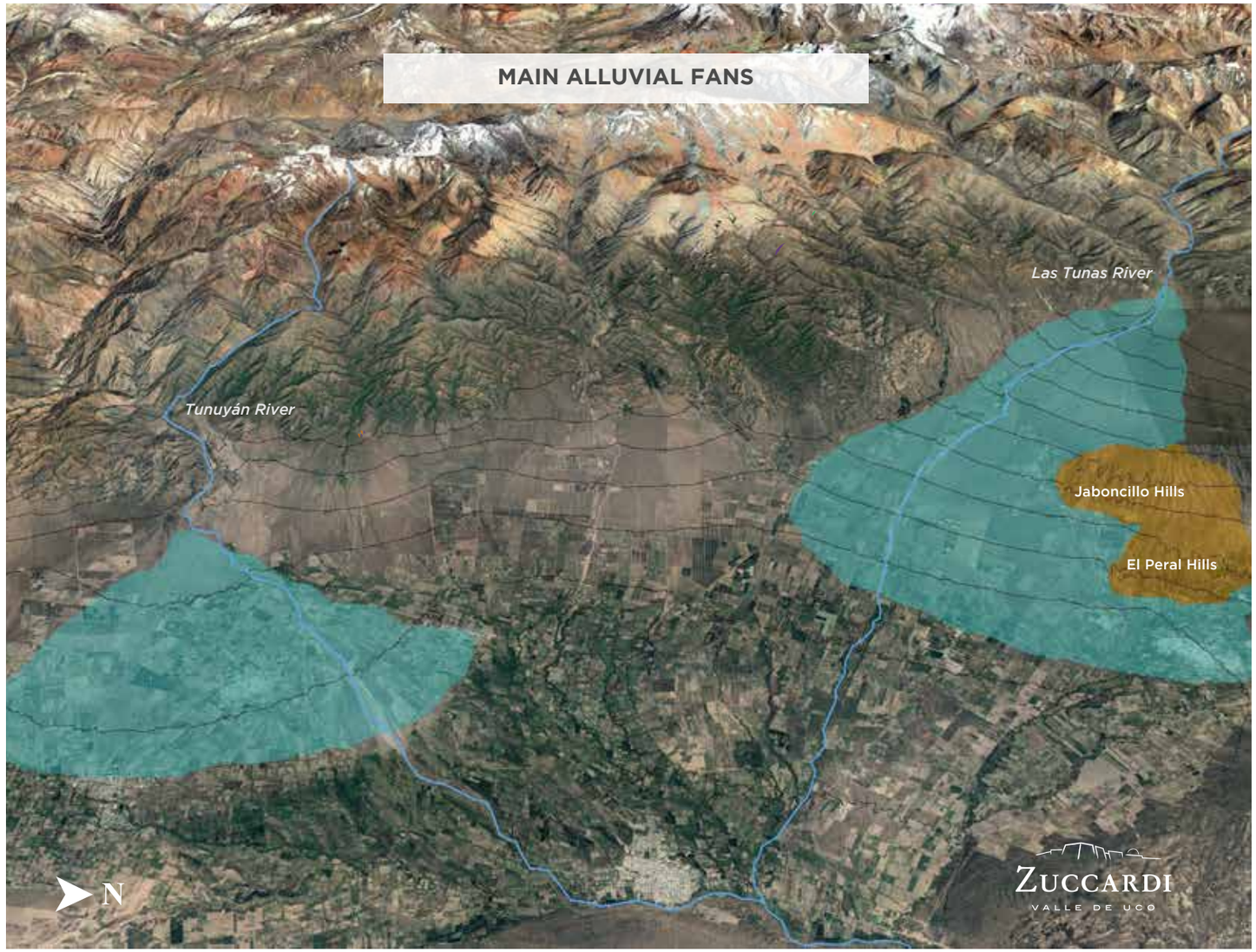
In this map, we can observe two of the main alluvial fans in the Uco Valley: that of the Tunuyán River in the south (shown to the left) and that of the Las Tunas River in the north (to the right).

The Tunuyán River fan gave rise to the soils in the entire Altamira area and parts of La Consulta and Pampa El Cepillo. The alluvium of the Tunuyán River was very powerful and managed to carry large boulders downstream, which can now be found in the higher parts of the fan.

The soils in San Pablo and Gualtallary were influenced by the alluvial fan of the Las Tunas River. Here, the stones are somewhat smaller.

Located in the southern section of the fan, nearest to the Frontal Mountain Range, San Pablo has very cold climate conditions, which make it a true mountain vineyard area.

The formation of the Jaboncillo and the El Peral hills reshaped the entire Gualtallary area, resulting in a very complex geology a rich diversity of soils. Close to the hills, the soils are preserved and ancient, abundant in caliche and other calcareous materials.



SOIL PROFILES

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PARAJE ALTAMIRA

1.050 -1.150 m
3.440 - 3.770 ft

SAN PABLO

1.150 - 1450 m
3.770 - 4.760 ft

GUALTALLARY

1.200 - 1.500 m
3.940 - 4.920 ft

PARAJE ALTAMIRA

This map shows the exact location of Paraje Altamira, a Geographic Indication (GI), as it rests on the top area of the alluvial fan of Tunuyán River, at 1100 masl (3609 ft).

This GI is characterized by its soils, which present a generous amount of large granite stones which are covered in calcium carbonate.

These stones are found at varying levels of depth, over a distance covering just a few feet, which means the soils in Paraje Altamira offer great variability.

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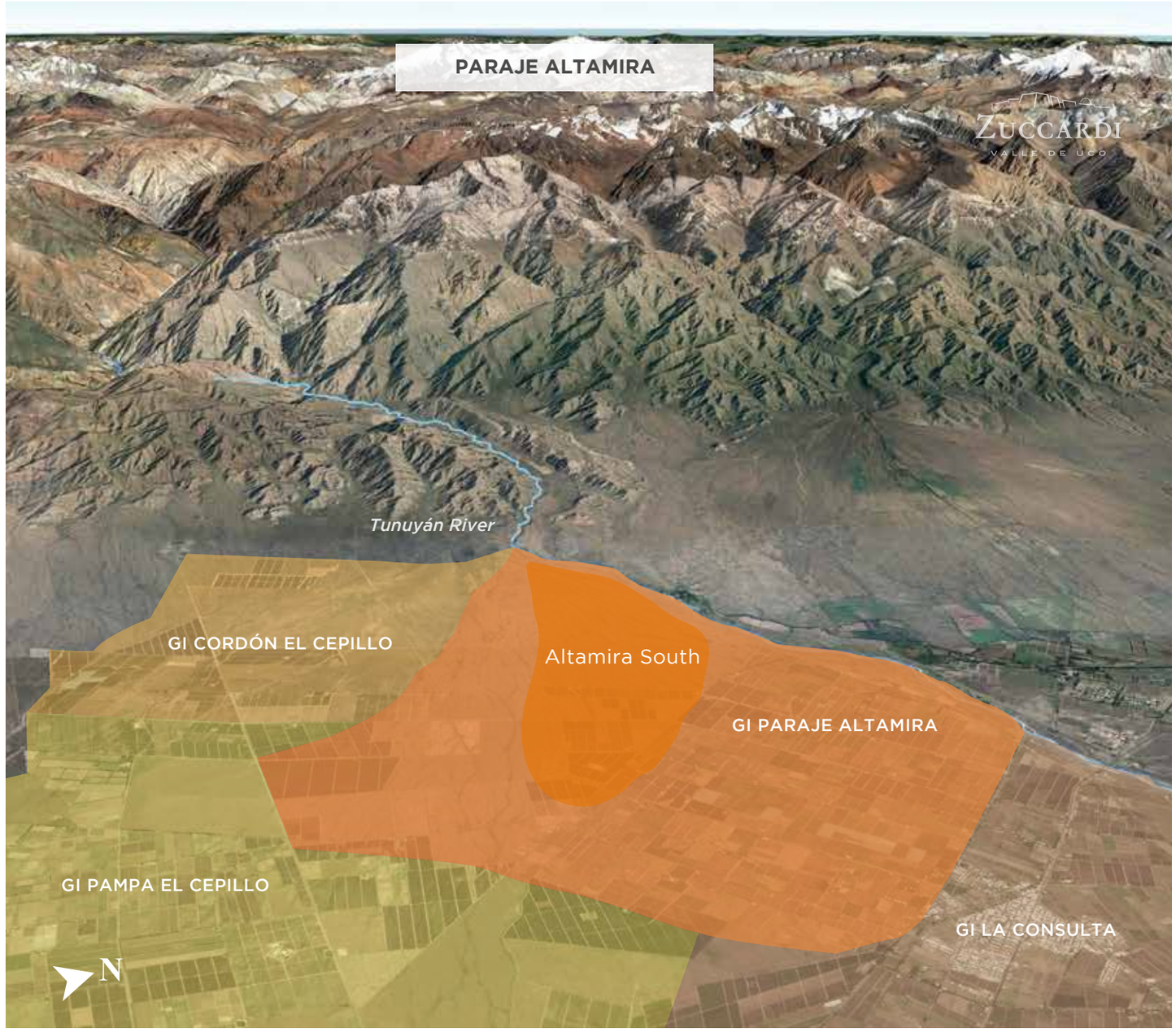

OUR VINEYARDS IN PARAJE ALTAMIRA

Although relatively near to one another, each of our three vineyards in Paraje Altamira is actually located at a unique position within the alluvial fan, which means each vineyard displays a distinctive identity of their own that is primarily connected with their soils and history.

- **Finca Canal Uco**
- **Finca Piedra Infinita**
- **Finca Los Membrillos**

Our Finca wines are an expression of the singularity of each of these vineyards.

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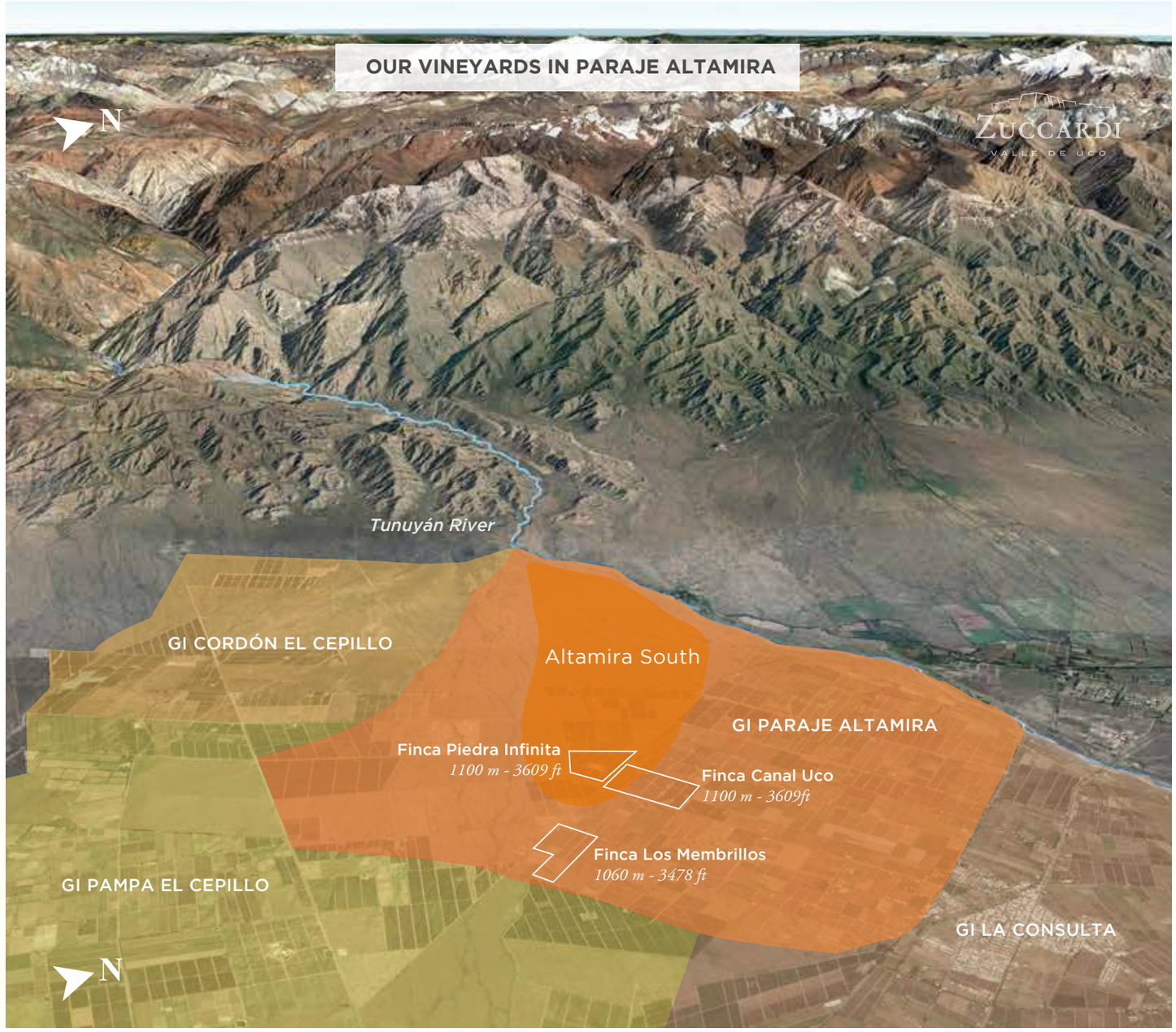
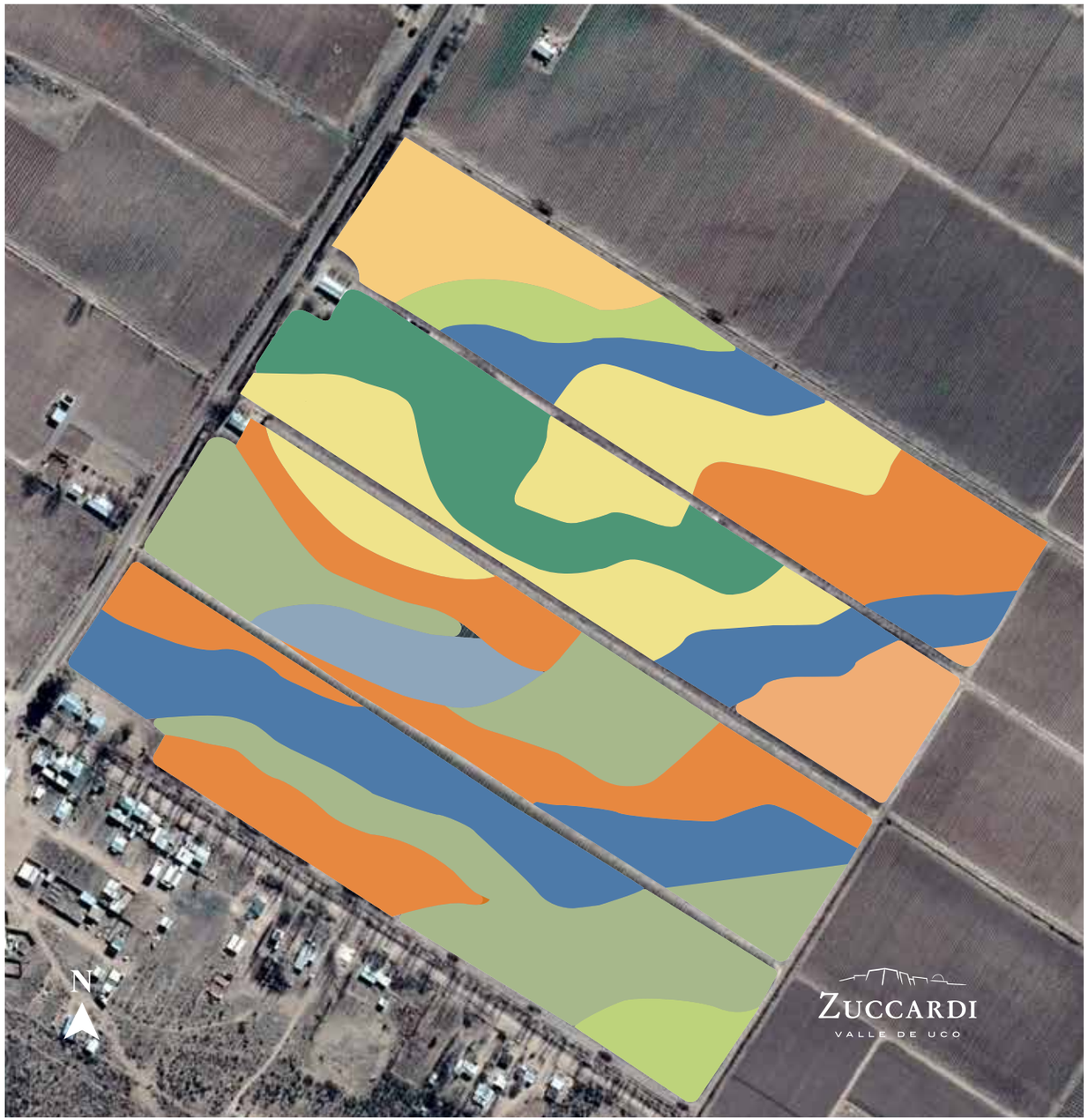
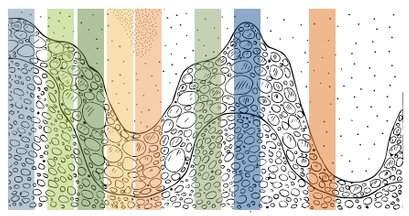




FINCA LOS MEMBRILLOS

PARAJE ALTAMIRA | SOIL MAP

This vineyard began to be planted at the end of the 1990s, with a design based on the needs of surface irrigation and influenced by the winemaking tradition of the area. However, the underlying soils are the heterogeneous alluvial soils of the Altamira area. The soil classification of this vineyard allowed us not only to harvest on a parcel-by-parcel basis but also to transform the vineyard through modernizing the irrigation system, tailored to the diversity of soil types it presents.



ALTITUDE: 1.060 m / 3.478 ft

TOTAL SURFACE: 37,2 hectares / 91,9 acres

PLANTED SURFACE:
33,1 hectares / 81,8 acres

VARIETIES: Malbec, Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Semillon

NUMBER OF PARCELS: 26
TRELLIS: Double Cordon

- SHALLOW TOPSOIL OVER MEDIUM THICK CALCAREOUS STONE LAYER
- SHALLOW TOPSOIL OVER THICK CALCAREOUS STONE LAYER
- 40 CM TOPSOIL OVER MEDIUM THICK CALCAREOUS STONE LAYER
- 70 CM TOPSOIL OVER MEDIUM THICK CALCAREOUS STONE LAYER
- 40 - 70 CM TOPSOIL OVER SANDY-GRAVELLY LAYER
- TRANSITION BETWEEN GRAVELLY AND MEDIUM DEPTH SOILS
- 80 - 100 CM SANDY TOPSOIL
- 80 - 100 CM SANDY LOAMY TOPSOIL
- 100 - 150 CM SANDY LOAMY TOPSOIL

OUR VINEYARDS IN GUALTALLARY Y SAN PABLO

- Finca Las Cuchillas (San Pablo)
- Finca Las Cerrilladas (Gualtallary)
- Finca Agua de la Jarilla (Gualtallary)
- Finca La Oculta (Gualtallary)

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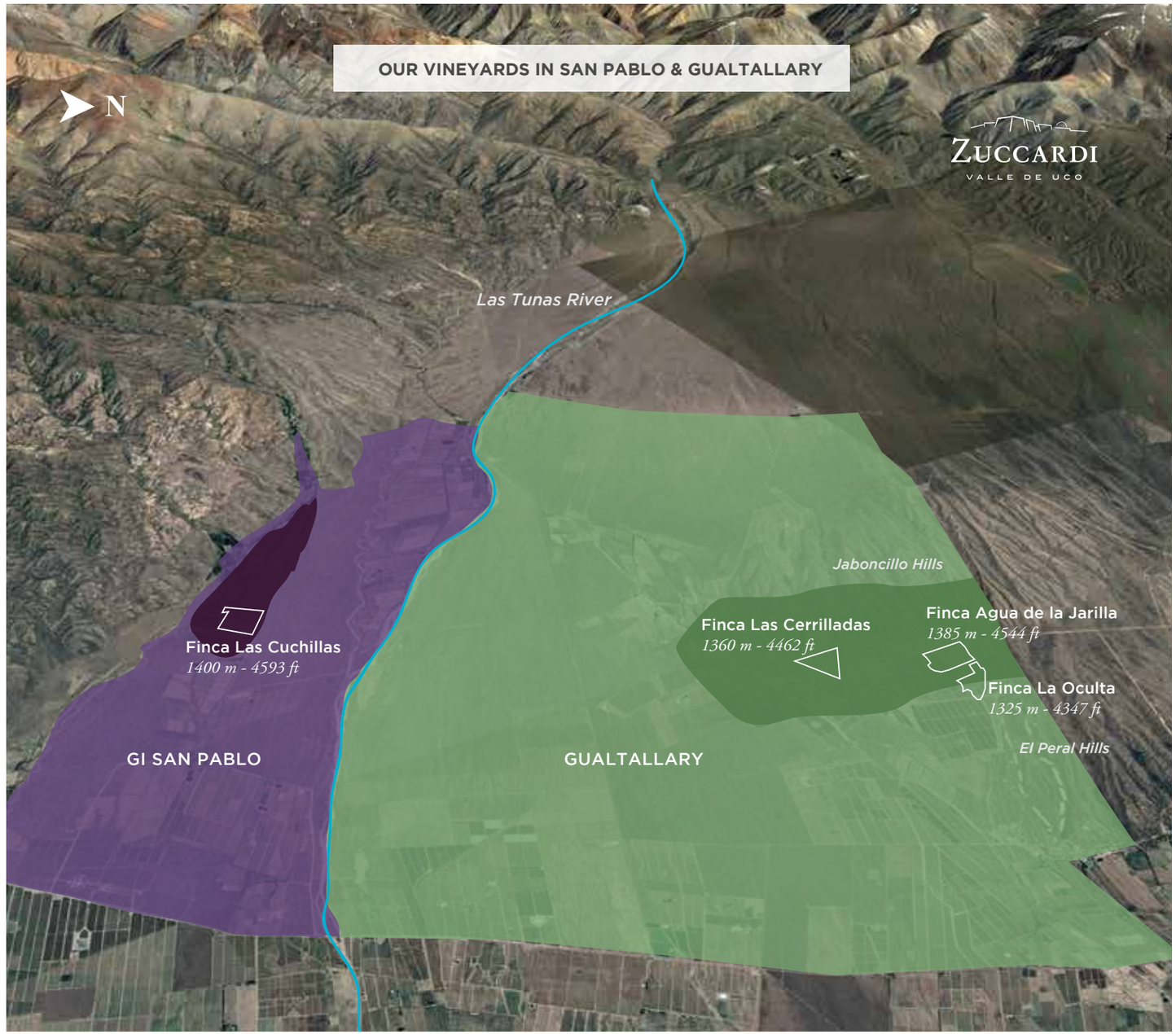


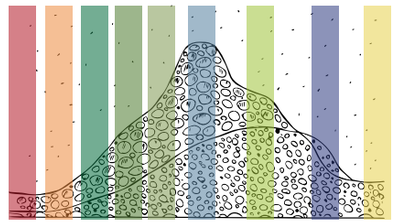
FINCA LAS CUCHILLAS

SAN PABLO | SOIL MAP

At 1400 m (4593 ft), this vineyard is characterized by its close proximity to the mountains, merely 600 m (1970 ft) away.

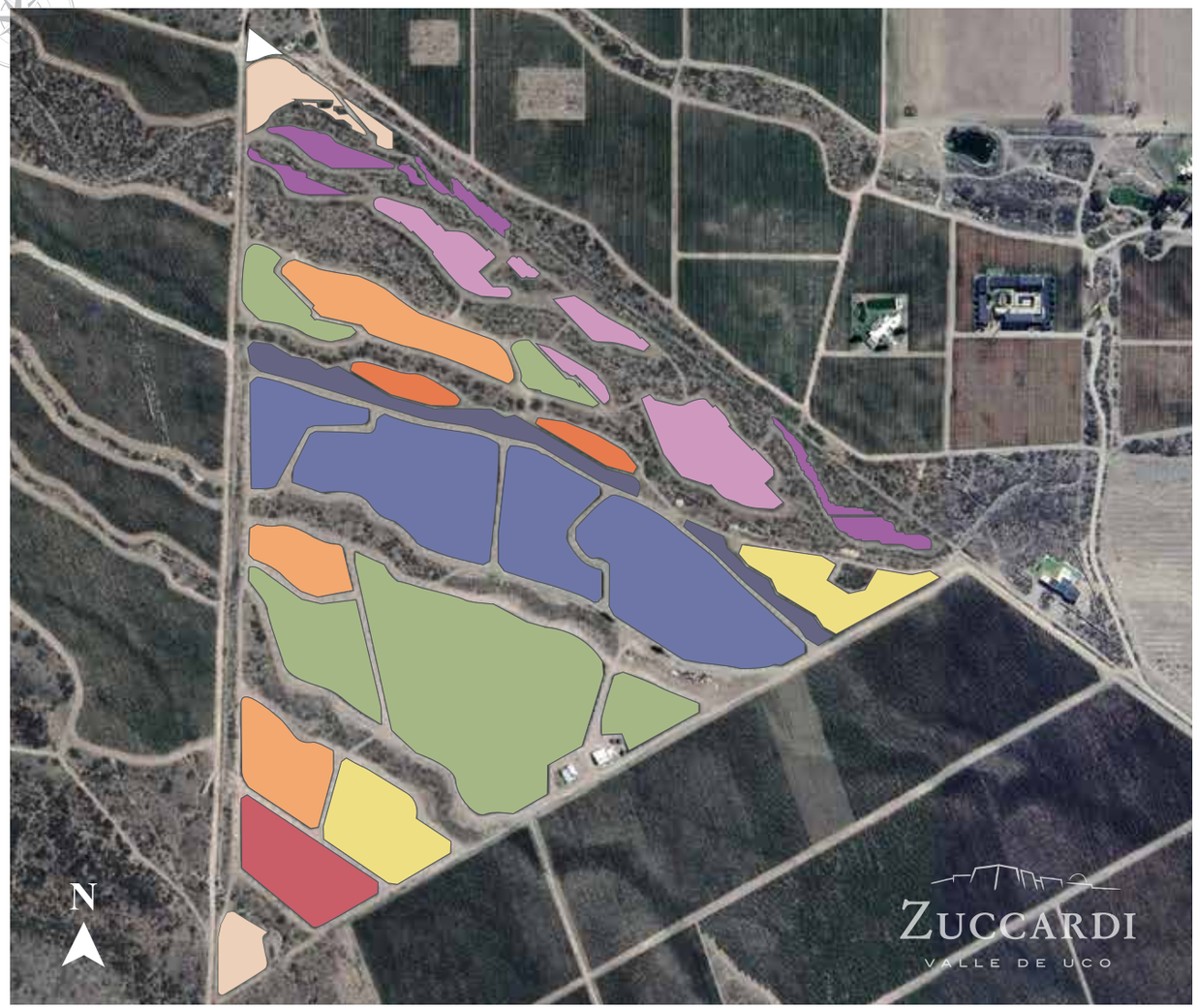
It is one of the coldest sites within Uco Valley, as it is constantly exposed to the cold air blowing down the Andes. Minimum and maximum temperatures in the area are quite low and the likelihood of snow and frost events is quite strong. This is the last vineyard that is harvested.

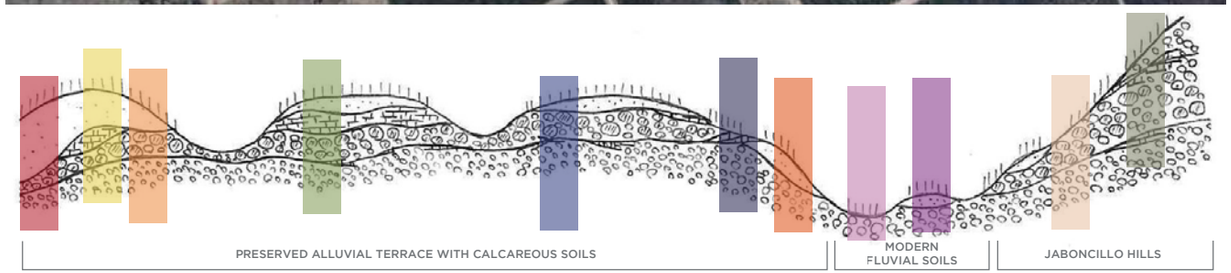
Soils here emerged from the alluvial processes of the Las Tunas River and the sediments from the Novillo Muerto and Villegas streams. The soils have stones covered in calcareous material.



ALTITUDE: 1.400 m / 4.593 ft
TOTAL SURFACE: 40,5 hectares / 100 acres
PLANTED SURFACE: 33,4 hectares / 82,5 acres
VARIETIES: Malbec, Chardonnay, Cabernet Franc, Bonarda, Verdejo, Albariño, Semillon, Riesling
NUMBER OF PARCELS: 57
TRELLIS: Double Cordon

- SHALLOW TOPSOIL OVER CALCAREOUS STONE LAYER
- SANDY GRAVELLY RIVERBED SOIL
- 35 CM TOPSOIL OVER MEDIUM THICK CALCAREOUS STONE LAYER
- 50 CM TOPSOIL OVER MEDIUM THICK CALCAREOUS STONE LAYER
- 50 CM TOPSOIL OVER THICK CALCAREOUS STONE LAYER
- 70 CM TOPSOIL OVER MEDIUM THICK CALCAREOUS STONE LAYER
- 80 - 100 CM SANDY TOPSOIL
- 80 - 100 CM SANDY LOAMY TOPSOIL
- +120 CM SANDY LOAMY TOPSOIL





FINCA LAS CERRILLADAS

GUALTALLARY | TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOIL MAP

This vineyard presents very diverse soils that emerged from the alluvial processes of Las Tunas River. This area of Gualtallary was further reshaped by the slope formation of the Jaboncillo hills. We find the relief and soils made up of aeolian sands, gravels covered in calcium carbonate and caliche.

Finca Las Cerrilladas fully integrates the vineyards with the natural landscape around them, in an approach that contributes greatly to the preservation of local species, maintaining the natural topography largely intact, the relief, and the hydrology of the area, transforming the vineyard into an ecosystem—rather than attempting to adapt the original ecosystem to the vineyard area.

Caliche: compacted sand, clay and calcium carbonate.

PRESERVED ALLUVIAL TERRACE WITH CALCAREOUS SOILS

- STONY AND CALCAREOUS
- STONY WITH HARD CALICHE. NORTH FACING ASPECT
- PINK CALICHE LAYER OVER STONY SUBSOIL
- 40 CM TOPSOIL OVER CALICHE LAYER
- 40 CM TOPSOIL OVER CALCAREOUS STONE SUBSOIL
- 60 CM TOPSOIL OVER STONY SUBSOIL
- 100 CM SANDY TOPSOIL

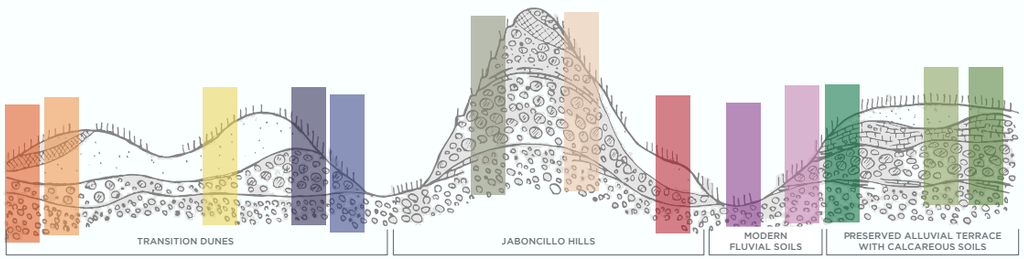
MODERN FLUVIAL SOILS

- 30 CM TOPSOIL OVER RIVERBED STONE SUBSOIL
- RIVERBED STONE

JABONCILLO HILLS

- HILLY ASPECT, CALCAREOUS STONE WITH VOLCANIC ASHES
- STEEP SOUTH FACING ASPECT, CALCAREOUS STONES

ALTITUDE: 1.360 m / 4.462 ft
TOTAL SURFACE: 32 hectares / 79 acres
PLANTED SURFACE: 18,8 hectares / 46,5 acres
VARIETIES: Malbec, Cabernet Franc, Chardonnay, Bonarda
NUMBER OF PARCELS: 30
TRELLIS: Double Cordon, Echalas



FINCA AGUA DE LA JARILLA GUALTALLARY

TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOIL MAP

This vineyard was planted in a place with surprisingly rich geology and topography. The silhouette of one of the Jaboncillo hills stands out, with its steep slopes planted with vineyards. The different levels, altitudes, slopes, and sun exposures reflect soils from three distinct geological histories, resulting in a very complex geology with preserved and ancient soils abundant in caliche and other calcareous material. Each parcel reflects a unique identity given by the combination of all these natural factors, with specific viticulture tailored to each situation.

PRESERVED ALLUVIAL TERRACE WITH CALCAREOUS SOILS

- 30 CM TOPSOIL OVER PINK CALICHE LAYER AND STONY SUBSOIL
- PINK CALICHE LAYER OVER STONY SUBSOIL
- STONY WITH HARD CALICHE. SOUTH FACING ASPECT

MODERN FLUVIAL SOILS

- 30 CM TOPSOIL OVER RIVERBED STONE SUBSOIL
- RIVERBED STONE

JABONCILLO HILLS

- 40% NORTH FACING SLOPE. CALCAREOUS STONES, VOLCANIC ASHES
- 60% SOUTH FACING SLOPE. CALCAREOUS STONES
- 100 CM SANDY LOAMY TOPSOIL OVER FLOW OF DEBRIS

TRANSITION DUNES

- 80 - 120 CM SANDY TOPSOIL OVER CALCAREOUS STONES
- 60 CM TOPSOIL OVER VOLCANIC ASHES. SOUTH FACING ASPECT
- STONY TOPSOIL WITH VOLCANIC ASHES. SOUTH FACING ASPECT
- CALCAREOUS STONES AND SAND. NORTH FACING ASPECT
- 40 CM SANDY LOAMY TOPSOIL OVER CALCAREOUS STONES

ALTITUDE: 1.385 m / 4.544 ft
TOTAL SURFACE: 70 hectares / 173 acres
PLANTED SURFACE: 35,6 hectares / 88 acres
VARIETIES: Malbec, Cabernet Franc, Chardonnay
NUMBER OF PARCELS: 50
TRELLIS: Double Cordon, Echalas, Terraces

FINCA PIEDRA INFINITA | IG Paraje Altamira, Valle de Uco, 1100 m - 3609 ft

FINCA CANAL UCO | IG Paraje Altamira, Valle de Uco 1100 m - 3609 ft

FINCA LOS MEMBRILLOS | IG Paraje Altamira, Valle de Uco, 1060 m - 3478 ft

FINCA LAS CUCHILLAS | IG San Pablo, Valle de Uco, 1400 m - 4593 ft

FINCA LAS CERRILLADAS | Gualtallary, Valle de Uco 1360 m - 4460 ft

FINCA LAS CERRILLADAS | Gualtallary, Valle de Uco 1360 m - 4460 ft

FINCA AGUA DE LA JARILLA | Gualtallary, Valle de Uco 1385 m - 4544 ft

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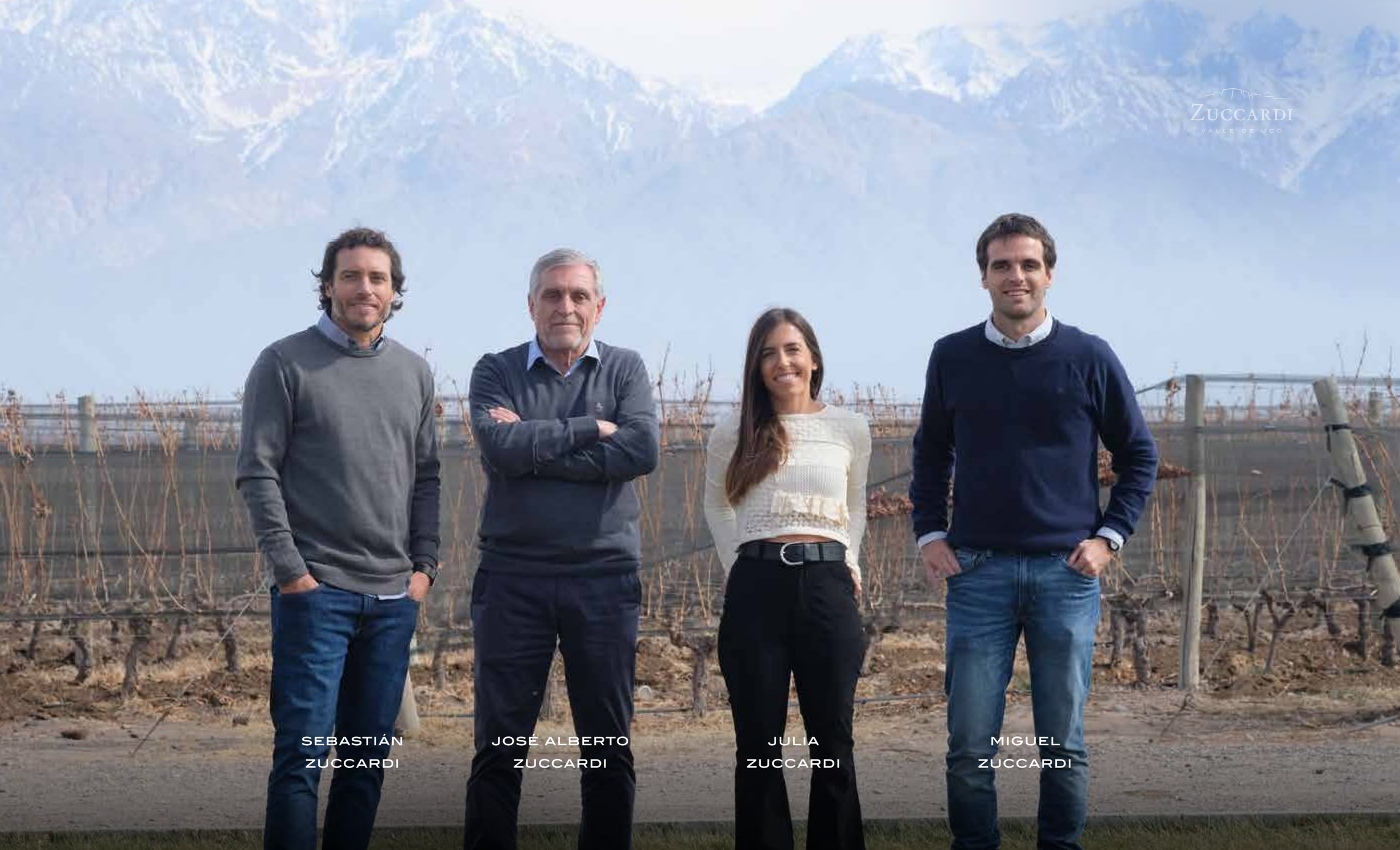
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