The Region.

Limestone and Silica.

To grow, a plant requires two essential components, a physical and a spiritual one.

The opposite nature of limestone and silica can influence the way a plant grows.

Limestone, with its compounds and derivatives that influence the physical shape and bearing of the plant, represents quantity. On the other hand, silica, with its silicates and other various compounds, represents the spiritual element, which we term as quality.

Through limestone the so-called inner planets Moon, Mercury and Venus drive man and nature, while through silica we gain guidance from outer planets Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

Underground, limestone tightly holds on to the plant's roots, chaining it firmly to the ground. Above the ground, silica assists the flower in its flourishing and its struggle to leave the confines of the earth to get closer to the sky. Amid this we find the leaves, which like clay, harmonize and hold together these two conflicting tendencies.

Let's look at two different types of rock, both of which not only have a fundamental importance for human evolution but also the impact they have on plants and the character of the fruit produced by them:
- Limestone rocks (found in the Dolomites and northern and eastern Alpine areas)
- Granite and porphyritic rocks (found in both the central and western Alps and Trentino Alto Adige in well-defined areas)

Alpine limestone originates from the animal kingdom through a process of calcareous secretion made by marine life. By observing the Dolomites and other limestone mountain ranges one recalls this sense of ancient past. Here rocks tend to be round and so pleasant to the touch that they convey almost a sense of being at home.

Contrary to limestone, granite bears a sense of remoteness and inaccessibility. Its origin is in fact the result of a process linked to the plant world; a very ancient process, far from human experience. Granite is largely made up of silica (quartz).

Those who observe granite mountains may notice slopes and crags which are identifiable by their distinct light, delicate and less rounded shape.

Granite does not allow the spectator to focus inwards as limestone does, rather they remain attentive and conscious of its neat structure.