

# PEBBLEBED

## Spring 2007 Newsletter

Dear Friends

It must be spring – the daffodils are out - the sap is rising and not March until tomorrow – everything seems about 2 weeks early!

It's been a very busy late winter in the vineyard. The end is in sight for our Main Ebford Vineyard pruning and there has been a lot of work preparing the new field (we've laid 10km of woven ground cover and marked out positions for 8,000 new vines) as well as pruning the pinot noir vineyards at West Hill. Being organic means that we have to do a lot more working the ground under the vines and general care of the vines to minimise the opportunity for over-wintering mildew etc. to occur. Many thanks to Nigel who has helped me over the winter.

### **2006 Pebblebed Wines**

The 2005 wines sold out just after Christmas so apologies to anybody who wasn't able to drink Pebblebed all year!

Its getting to that exciting (and nerve racking) time when the Pebblebed 2006 wine will be released. This is our first year of the grapes being certified as organic and following a very warm 2006 summer we are keeping our fingers crossed for the exceptional fruit quality to show in the wine.

We bottled our first rose sparkling in early February which will now remain in the bottle for the second fermentation (methode champenoise) until November. Hopefully we will release a few bottles pre Christmas.

Our rose will be bottled next week and the intention is to release this at the Exeter Food Festival at the end of March. Our rose and white wines will all now be screw capped for convenience and to reduce the potential for cork taint in the wines.

Based on our experience, our Pebblebed white wine benefits from a few months of bottle ageing, so our intention is not to release this until at least June – subject to tasting.

We also have a small quantity of our first Pebblebed red wine. Following a very warm 2006 summer the Rondo grapes were of exceptional quality (even if it was picked in the worst thunderstorm for a 100 years to hit Devon - as Liz from the Globe and friends who helped us pick will testify). I'm not sure when we will release this but hopefully you will come to the Pebblebed cellar after Easter to taste.

## **Come and help us Plant the New Orchard Vineyard at Clyst St George 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March**

On Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> March we will be planting our new Pebblebed Orchard Vineyard near Clyst St George (2 miles from Topsham). We will plant from about 2pm till 5pm on Saturday and 10am till 1pm on Sunday followed by a helpers bbq Sunday lunch. If you can come and help for as much or as little as you want that would be great. Please bring welly boots and old clothes no other tools needed – children very welcome. On the Sunday lunchtime we will be bbq ing steaks over vine shoots – I will provide some food and drink but please could you bring some steak and perhaps a salad to ensure we have a feast!

Directions from Topsham go towards Exmouth past Darts Farm – upto George and Dragon pub roundabout turn left – up to next roundabout turn right on main Woodbury Road - after 100m turn left into Clyst St George - after 100m turn right go past Church on left – after 100m turn right (signpost Bushhayes) follow single road to end – follow signs and park in farmyard.

### **Other events**

**Exeter Food Festival – Friday, Saturday and Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> March and 1 April.**

We have a stand at the Exeter Food Festival – please come and say hello.

**English Wine Week – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May to Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June**

There will be lots of events throughout the week at local vineyards and local food restaurants/outlets. We will be doing our “river cruise” to Turf again probably on the Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> May. The Devon Vineyards will also be launching a Devon Wine Trail information pack.

**Tavistock Food Festival 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July**

We also have a stand at the Tavistock Food Festival – really good festival with lots of exciting local food and drink - see you there!

### **Summer Party**

We hope to organise a summer charity bash in the vineyard – details to follow.

### **Updated Website**

As from Mid March our website will be updated with news and event details. We will also have the ability to take orders on line using PayPal.

Please do email or call me if you have any questions [geoff@pebblebed.co.uk](mailto:geoff@pebblebed.co.uk) Tel 01392 875908

Thanks for supporting Pebblebed and I look forward to seeing you in the Cellar or Vineyard.

*Geoff*