



1. Pebblebed Wines
2. Sharpham Vineyard
3. Yearlstone Vineyard
4. Down St Mary Vineyard
5. Boyces at Manstree
6. Old Walls Vineyard
7. Oakford Vineyard
8. Willhayne and Highcroft
9. Higher Living and Garden Cottage
10. Ashwell Vineyard
11. Blackdown Hills

Devon's wine trail

Lots of Devon's vineyards welcome visitors, so forget Chiantishire and taste test some wines closer to home.

1. Pebblebed Wines

Last year saw Geoff Bowen's first commercial vintage released, as well as continued success for his 2004 Pebblebed Rosé. The organic vineyard is situated on a gentle slope at Ebford, on the deep pebblebed ridge above the Otter Valley. The 2004 Pebblebed Rosé won a prestigious gold medal in the English & Welsh Wine of the Year Competition, one of only a handful of gold medals presented. The wine is currently sold from the cellar and VINO, the Topsham-based wine club.
Pebblebed Wines, Ebford.
 Tel. 01392 875908.
www.pebblebedwines.co.uk

2. Sharpham Vineyard

Sharpham Vineyard and Cheese Dairy is set in a beautiful location on the bank of the River Dart. The 500-acre estate produces a range of white and red wines and a tally of International Awards confirms

its position as one of England's foremost quality wine producers. Sharpham Vineyard is open to the public from March 1–December 23, Monday–Saturday, 10am–5pm. During June, July and August you can visit seven days a week for a range of tours, which include a scenic walk around the vineyard and along the riverbank, followed by a tasting of a selection of the wines and cheeses produced there (£3.95 and £7.50.) Large groups by arrangement only. The vineyard shop sells the full range of available wines and cheeses.

Sharpham Vineyard, Sharpham Estate, Ashprington. Tel. 01803 732203.
www.sharpham.com

3. Yearlstone Vineyard

Yearlstone Vineyard has an airy new terrace café, with views of the vineyard and the River Exe winding its way to the sea. The terrace is a suntrap where you can pass away an hour or two sipping a glass of rosé, and nibbling on one of the

café's light lunches, where the emphasis is on seasonal, local food. Just yards away from your table, three hectares of vines disappear down the steep south slopes.

This is the grandfather of the South West vineyard revival, planted in 1976, and the training ground for many vine growers. In the last decade it has been expanded by husband and wife team Roger and Juliet White (a trained winemaker) into a prospering business. There are regular guided tours each week in the summer, and tastings of the estate-grown wines.

Yearlstone is also a regional winemaking centre, making wine for several other vineyards. The vineyard and café are open most days, from 11am–5pm.
Yearlstone Vineyard, Bickleigh, near Tiverton. Tel. 01884 855700.
www.yearlstone.co.uk

4. Down St Mary Vineyard

Down St Mary is a stunning vineyard set in the heart of rural mid Devon. Situated on a steep south-facing slope of warm Devon

shale, above the meandering River Yeo, the vineyard enjoys a benign microclimate. Bernard and Penelope Doe took over the vineyard in November 2001 and have increased the yield year on year. In addition to its popular table wines, Down St Mary is now producing two quality wines and two Devon regional wines. A sparkling wine is also available, produced by the traditional method of bottle fermentation, resulting in a dry, yet full-flavoured fizz. Bernard and Penelope have planted further varieties of red vines so keep an eye out for reds and rosés.

Down St Mary Vineyard, The Old Mill, Down St Mary, Crediton.
Tel. 01363 82300.
www.english-vineyard.co.uk

5. Boyces at Manstree

Manstree Vineyard is situated one and a half miles south west of the Exeter city boundary at Shillingford St George and has been producing white wines for the last 22 years. The Boyce family have been at Manstree Vineyard for 12 years, and currently grow four white grape varieties on four and a half acres. A recent development is the establishment of red grape varieties which they hope will produce a commercial crop in three years' time. Successive Manstree wines have won many awards over the years in national and regional competitions.

Boyces at Manstree, New Barn Farm, Manstree Road, Shillingford St George, Exeter. Tel. 01392 832218.
www.boyces-manstree.co.uk

6. Old Walls Vineyard

Old Walls is an ambitious new vineyard planting just outside Teignmouth with immaculately tended vines on steep slopes and a modern new winery and shop. The first release of wines from this vineyard will be just in time for English Wine Week.
Old Walls Vineyard, Old Walls Road, Bishopsteignton. Tel. 01626 770877.

7. Oakford Vineyard

Oakford Vineyard, on the southern edge of Exmoor, produces white, rosé, red and sparkling wines. Made only from grapes grown in Devon, the growers emphasise local character in their Deep Devon range. Oakford welcomes enquires from traders

and delivers free of charge within Devon and Exmoor. Get a five per cent discount off all orders made during English Wine Week.

Oakford Vineyard, Holme Place, Oakford, Tiverton. Tel. 01398 351486.

8. Willhayne and Highcroft

Willhayne and Highcroft are two new vineyards in East Devon. Both have just begun cropping and their first wines have been made at Yearlstone. Dave and Kathryn Baxendale own Willhayne Vineyard, which is situated on a sheltered site along a country lane, a short walk from Colyton town centre.

Willhayne Vineyard and Highcroft Vineyard are near Axminster.
Tel. 01297 553463 for directions and details.

9. Higher Living and Garden Cottage

Higher Living and Garden Cottage are proof of the evolution of Devon's vineyards into viable commercial ventures - these are feeder vineyards, growing grapes under contract to the bigger Down St Mary.
Higher Living Vineyard, Down St Mary and the Garden Cottage Plant Centre and Vineyard, Coldridge can be contacted through Down St Mary Vineyard.

10. Ashwell Vineyard

At Ashwell Vineyard, Bill and Diane Riddell bring a scientific approach to vine growing in their small but delightful walled cottage garden.
Ashwell Vineyard, Bovey Tracey.
Tel. 01626 830031.

11. Blackdown Hills

Roger and Marcelle Bootes' vineyard is open for guided or unguided visits, against the backdrop of picturesque Dumpton Hill.
Blackdown Hills Vineyard & Winery, Oaklands Farm, Monkton, Honiton.
Tel. 01404 47442.



English Wine Week is supported by Food From Britain, Exeter City Council, Mid Devon District Council and Devon County Council.

Wine Week events



Saturday May 27
Music and mezes on the Vineyard Terrace
Yearlstone Vineyard, Bickleigh.
Classical guitar, chilled wines and a stunning setting. 6.30pm.
Tickets £17.50.

Wednesday May 31
Open day at Sharpham Vineyard
'Sharpham Sparkling and Local Devon Strawberries', plus a fully guided tour with scenic walks at 3.30pm.

Thursday June 1
Open afternoon at Willhayne and Highcroft
Free tastings of 2005 wines.
2pm-8pm.

Saturday June 3
First ever vineyard tour at Old Walls
Tasting of new wines at 2pm.

For the full list of over 20 events, visit:
www.food-mag.co.uk

For more information on English Wine Week, Tel. 01884 855700. Visit:
www.yearlstone.co.uk and
www.discoverdevon.com/wine