

Celebrity chef unveils European funded winery

CELEBRITY chef Rick Stein yesterday toasted the opening of a brand new winery at a Cornish vineyard which has become the first in Britain to secure European funds.

In the warm spring sunshine, Rick Stein joined owners Bob Lindo and his wife Annie, to unveil their latest addition to the Camel Valley Vineyard.

The new winery contains all the latest equipment and will be used to make a full range of red, white and sparkling wines produced from the 8,000 vines set overlooking the rolling hills around Bodmin.

The new winery has been made possible by Objective 5b funds given through the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the West Country Tourist Board.

The money was distributed under a capital grant scheme for food and drink producers making the vineyard the first in Britain to benefit directly from European funds.

The 120 guests from the local business community at the opening yesterday sampled a new English Vineyards quality wine – the first to be made in the new winery – and tucked into a lunch of the finest Cornish fare.

Padstow restaurateur and television chef Rick Stein unveiled a commemorative plaque and praised the family-run enterprise.

He said: "I am very impressed with the whole set up. It is good to see it being done properly."

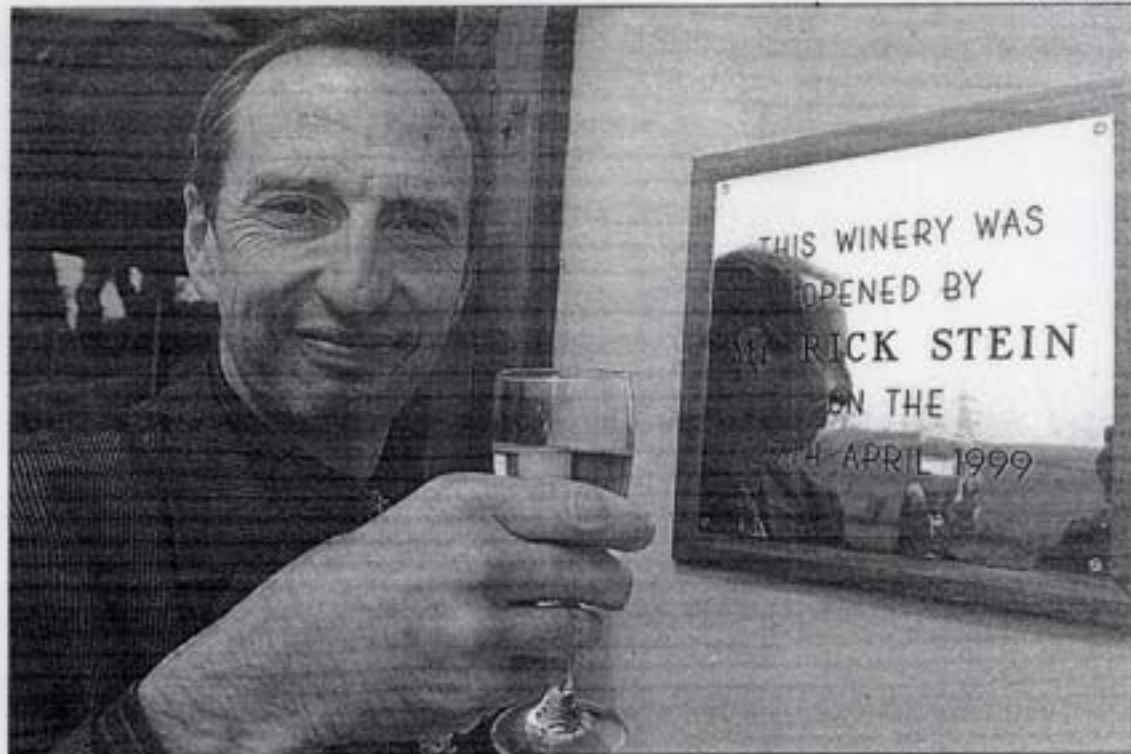
He also said the wines from the 10-year-old vineyard at Nanstallon would be found in his world-renowned seafood restaurant.

Bob Lindo praised Rick for his support saying: "It was so nice of him to come here. He can go all over the world and yet he has come down the road for us."

Cairns Boston, chairman of West Country Tourist Board, yesterday also presented the vineyard with awards for its enhancements to visitor facilities and for helping to revitalise farm tourism.

He said: "This is part of this niche marketing that is so essential. If we do things together we make things happen and everything today is about people coming together."

Bob Lindo said: "We don't see ourselves as a tourism attraction we are serious wine makers, but we are grateful if people want to come and have a look."



NEIL LINDSEY

● TOASTING SUCCESS: Bob Lindo, of Camel Valley Vineyard, drinks to the future of his new venture