



*Our aim is to provide guests with boutique apartments, a step above boutique hotels. We're proud of our apartments and work hard to build our reputation. This couldn't be done without the passion and drive of the Pebbles Team.*

**Matthew Roberts** can often be found hidden in the Pebbles tree house under accounting paperwork, maintenance reports and Gayle's "helpful" to-do list. Matt has a background in renovating property in the UK (just for fun!) and over in France and knows his numbers. Over the last 12 months he has enjoyed helping investors choose those "steals" that come up from time to time. He just wishes he has the funds to buy them himself! His old life in the UK as a microbiologist now seems like a distant memory, though he still remembers the rain of course. Along with Gayle, he founded Nice Pebbles in 2006 and Riviera Pebbles in 2007.

**Gayle Roberts** will tell everyone that Matthew dragged her kicking and screaming from her old job as a solicitor in Manchester to the French Riviera, but really she just wanted Matthew to carry the responsibility if it all went wrong. Happily the change of career and lifestyle seems to suit her as much as Matthew. Now juggling new motherhood she is still heavily involved with the company and handles everything from guest relations, new client relations website improvements and keeps an eye on how we can improve our service to our guests and clients.

**Keely Barrett** is our Northern English Rose. Enviously fluent in French, Keely settled in Nice in 2008 after finishing her French degree at Edinburgh University. Working firstly as part of our changeover team, Keely has quickly become our indispensable general manager. In reality this means Keely wears a lot of different hats including managing and assisting our team, handling reservations, taking care of our guests, assisting with the sales arm of the business and writing for the websites and the Pebbles Guide.

**Veronica Sexton** joined the office team in 2010 and most of our guests will have received emails or

spoken to Roni on the phone. Originally from Ireland with an impressive background in sales management and training, Roni moved to France with her boyfriend when he landed a job in Monaco. She didn't need much persuading to leave Dublin behind. She handles our new enquiries and helps our guests choose the right apartment. Roni has travelled extensively and loves exploring new places and often does so by cycling around Nice and nearby towns.

**Laura Poirier** worked hard to find us our perfect holiday home. That was back in 2005. None of us ever imagined we'd now be working together everyday, though her friendliness and honesty certainly made sure we kept in touch with her over the years. We were delighted when she expressed an interest in joining us to head up Nice Pebbles Sales in early 2009. Laura is originally from Ireland, but has lived on the French Riviera for the last 15 years. She has two teenagers and is married to a Frenchman and has been an active sales agent on the French Riviera for 9 years.

**Marie Perrier** – Half French and half American, Marie is our Nice Pebbles Operations Manager. With a background in luxury apartment rentals and events planning, she joined us in early 2009 and now impressively juggles maintaining and improving the standards of our apartments, meeting our guests, coordinating our cleaning and meet-and-greet teams, and keeps us all in check. No easy task, but with her huge smile and overall cuteness she can pretty much wrap us round her little finger.

**Kelly McClain** – Originally from the United States, Kelly came here to learn French at school and fell in love with both David Zincke (the humble yet very talented musician) and with Nice itself. Nice is better for having her in it and we know all our guests will love her big warm smile. Graduating early from high school, she has worked in real estate since 2006. Kelly loves to travel and immerse herself in new cultures. She recently spent time in El Salvador building houses and works alongside her family for the charity Alliance for the Lost Boys of Sudan. Kelly joined us in 2010 and is one of our Nice Pebbles apartment managers.

**Bruno Defforge** is our lovable Frenchman and after 20 years in the United States, he returned to his roots and joined us in early 2009. Often complimented on his sheer enthusiasm by our guests, Bruno is certainly larger than life and entertains us all in the office with his funny stories and huge smile. He is keen to share his passion with the French Riviera with our guests and when not working can be spotted exploring on his scooter with his lovely American wife Kim. Both Nice Pebbles and Riviera Pebbles want a piece of Bruno so he divides his workload between the two arms of the business, as well as helping out with maintenance.

**Audrey Eager** is our happy-go-lucky Irish lass who packed in her responsible job to come and experience life in France. Trouble is she is so committed to work, she just can't help being responsible all over again. Her background is with the package tour industry and she has spent winter in the Alps before joining us in May 2010. So she's the Nice Pebbles newbie.

**Malena Richard** is our bubbly American who married a Frenchman, the charming Xavier who co-owns one of our favourite restaurants, Flaveur. They have two gorgeous girls, ages 6 and 1. Before Malena joined us in 2007, she worked with the local community and is a great asset for Pebbles in strengthening relationships with the locals and expat businesses. She now manages over 30 Riviera Pebbles apartments and is responsible for growing our portfolio of properties in Cannes and Antibes. She has her own team to help since her properties range from villas to studios from Monaco to Nice.

**Roxana Dumitriu** is Romanian but speaks impressive English, French, Italian, and Spanish. We've watched on in admiration as she tenaciously gets to the bottom of maintenance, building, and technical issues for our owners. You'd never know her scary bossy nature if you met her with her approachable and friendly smile. She joined the team in early 2010 and manages our Riviera Pebbles Old Town apartments and loves to meet new people and pass on her tips for great restaurants and things to do whilst visiting.

**Jane Fryer** gave up London life back in 2005 for sun, sea, and fresh air. Or at least that what she will tell you, but really the wine and cuisine had a lot to do with it! Luckily for her she enjoys outdoor life too and walks off those calories in the mountains with her partner Siamak – who is one of our very handy tradesmen. Both of them joined the Pebbles team in early 2010 and Jane manages some of our Riviera Pebbles apartments in the Carre d'Or area.

**Geraldine Hogg** also packed her UK suitcase for good when visits to her Nice holiday apartment were simply not enough. Prior to her move to Nice she ran her own tea and coffee shop complete with English

scones. As you might expect, Geraldine loves meeting people and now manages some of our Riviera Pebbles apartments in the Carre d'Or area.

**Sofie Astrom** is our Swedish belle. Lured by Neil (one of our interior designers), Sofie and Neil tied the knot last year and still seem to be in the honeymoon period! Sofie loves Cannes and having now lived there for over 4 years is a font of knowledge for our guests. Sofie manages our apartments in Cannes, Golfe-Juan, and Juan-les-Pins.

**Victoria Foxhall** is from Devon and gained a degree in hospitality management before moving to the sunnier shores of the French Riviera five years ago. Before joining Pebbles to manage our properties in Antibes, she worked on super yachts. Vicky is settled in Juan-les-Pins with her fiancé John, the friendly and helpful bank account manager at HSBC. Yes – it's a small world here. When they are not working they enjoy walking or skiing in the mountains.

**Peter Brooke** is one of the most friendly and astute guys we know and has our heads spinning with possibilities every time we have chance to share a social drink. Sadly, this is not as often as we'd like since he too has a young family at home. He has given us sound financial advice from as early as 2006 and we're delighted to offer his services as our Pebbles financial adviser to our clients. We know our clients will be in safe hands with Peter.

**Miranda Pitt** is our freelance PR and marketing consultant. With a background in big brand consumer public relations in London, Miranda moved to the Riviera rather on a whim. A long holiday turned into a year and then some. Always wanting to finish that novel she started, working for us and others just keeps getting in the way. But that's the beauty of the French Riviera.

**Our Owners** – We choose our owners carefully. All of them are pro-active, pleasant to deal with, and responsive to any problems that occur in the apartments. We all appreciate how they are continually open to suggestions by way of improvements. Without them there would be no Nice Pebbles or Riviera Pebbles and we wouldn't be able to offer you the services we strive to give our guests.

For the full team profiles  
please go to the Meet the Team pages  
on our websites.

[www.nicepebbles.com](http://www.nicepebbles.com)  
[www.rivierapebbles.com](http://www.rivierapebbles.com)