

**LERIDA  
ESTATE**

*Lake George*

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**Stopera**

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For immediate distribution

## **Opera, Wine, and Lake George by Night!**

### **BEAU SOIR**

#### ***An evening of French-inspired fine wine, food & song***

Lerida Estate makes the most of its beautiful setting on Lake George this March, with an evening of fine wine, food and song that features the ACT's award-winning opera company, Stopera. The French style of the Lerida Estate wines has inspired the choice of music, which will include dreamily romantic songs by the French masters Debussy, Fauré and Ravel, as well as opera favourites from *Lakmé* and *Carmen*.

"It's a unique opportunity to hear some fabulous singers in the very special acoustic of Lerida Estate's Barrel Room," says Stopera's Artistic Director Vivienne Winther, who will be the pianist for this event. "This amazing Glen Murcutt designed winery is a stunning venue for a concert."

Stopera is famous for its special events, creating nine concerts for exhibitions at the National Gallery of Australia, and the company finished 2005 on a high note with a very stylish and sold-out New Year's Eve dinner and concert for The Ginger Room at Old Parliament House.

*Beau Soir* performers, singers Rebecca Collins and Maria Danielle-Sette, are well known to Canberra and national audiences, especially since appearing in the lead roles of Stopera's award-winning 2005 Australian premiere of the chamber opera *Jane Eyre*.

They'll be singing some of their favourites in this concert: arias from *Carmen* and *Samson and Delilah*, the famous duet from *Lakmé*, a popular choice for film soundtracks and TV commercials, and another equally well known duet, the beautiful Barcarolle from *Tales of Hoffmann*.

As well, Anne Caine from Lerida Estate with the assistance of Café Schonegg has created a memorable gourmet evening starting with canapés in the courtyard on arrival, and a delicious buffet dinner in the barrel room following the concert.

"Lerida's assistant winemaker, Frenchman Sylvain Pabion, will present the Lerida Estate wines for tasting," says Anne. "This will be a wonderful way to experience some fine Canberra region wines in the special atmosphere of Lake George by night."

*Beau Soir* will be a wonderful celebration of the joys of fine wine, food and music, and is a feature in the programs of both the Canberra District Wine Harvest Festival (1/2 April) and Weereewa— a Festival of Lake George (25 March – 2 April).

#### **Event summary follows.**

#### **Media contacts: for more information, interviews and photos**

*Lerida Estate & Canberra District Wine Harvest Festival*: Anne Caine 02 6295 6640

*Stopera*: Vivienne Winther 02 6232 4082

*Weereewa— a Festival of Lake George*: Greg Marginson 0411 458 516

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## **Event Summary**

**Title:**

**BEAU SOIR - an evening of French-inspired fine wine, food & song**

**Description:**

A very special evening of French-inspired fine wine, food and song at the magnificent Glenn Murcutt-designed Lerida Estate Winery. Experience the beauty of Lake George at sunset, with canapés in the courtyard, followed by a concert and gourmet buffet dinner in the barrel room.

Stopera artists Rebecca Collins, Maria Danielle-Sette and Vivienne Winther will perform songs by Debussy, Ravel and Fauré, and French opera favourites from Carmen, Lakmé and Tales of Hoffmann. Lerida's assistant winemaker, Frenchman Sylvain Pabion, will present the Lerida Estate wines.

Presented as part of Weereewa - A Festival of Lake George [www.weereewafestival.com](http://www.weereewafestival.com) and the Canberra District Wine Harvest Festival [www.canberrawines.com.au](http://www.canberrawines.com.au)

**When:** Friday, 31 March 2006 from 5:30pm

**Where:** Lerida Estate Winery Lake George: off the Federal Highway, turn off at Gurney VC rest area. Lerida is 45 kms from Canberra CBD, and 11 kms south of Collector. For directions and map visit Events at [www.leridaestate.com](http://www.leridaestate.com)

**Cost** \$90 per head. Includes canapés on arrival accompanied by a glass of Lerida's 2001 Sparkling Pinot Noir Chardonnay and the 2005 Rosé; concert; wine tasting; and gourmet buffet dinner. Lerida Estate wines can be purchased at the cellar door to accompany dinner.

**Bookings essential:** 02 6295 6640 Lerida Estate