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MEDIA RELEASE

A Capital Year for Lerida Estate Wines

Lerida Estate from the Canberra District is delighted to announce that during the 2009 Wine Show season it collected four Trophies (including two Champion Wine Trophies), and 56 gold, silver and bronze medals.

Every single wine currently offered by Lerida Estate has won one or more medals. While this is a great result by itself, what is more extraordinary is that the trophies and medals have been awarded across the entire range of wines made by Lerida Estate.

Our most successful wine for 2009 was the **2008 Botrytis Pinot Gris**. This wine won 4 trophies (including two Champion Wine trophies), four gold medals, a silver medal and four bronze medals. This is only the second year that Lerida Estate has made this style of wine and it beat many of the better known wines from wineries who traditionally make this style of wine in Australia. Pinot Gris is still regarded as an emerging variety in Australia, but the success of this Lerida Estate wine indicates not only the superior winemaking skills of the Lerida Estate winemaker Malcolm Burdett, but also the suitability of the Lake George terroir in the Canberra District for this variety. Our standard 2009 Pinot Gris also won a silver and two bronze medals.

Lerida Estate's Shiraz Viognier continued to impress the judges. This year the **2008 Shiraz Viognier** won 5 medals, including two gold medals. The wine was also featured in the recent Canberra District Shiraz 'roadshow' organised by Tim Kirk from Clonakilla. This roadshow featured the top Shiraz/Shiraz Viognier wines from the Canberra District, including the Clonakilla Shiraz Viognier and the Collector Wines Shiraz. The Lerida Estate 2006 Shiraz Viognier won numerous trophies including the Champion Wine of the Show in the 2007 Canberra Regional Wine Show – a show that traditionally has a very strong Shiraz/Shiraz Viognier field, and the Lerida Estate 2007 Shiraz Viognier was also highly awarded, including receiving two gold medals and 95/100 from James Halliday.

What has been most gratifying have been the awards that Lerida Estate has received for its **2008 Pinot Noir**. For the first time in 2009, Lerida Estate did three separate bottlings of its Pinot Noir based on quality criteria. Wine from each of these batches have received medals – a total of 2 gold, 3 silver and 4 bronze medals. According to Jim Lumbers, one of the owners of Lerida Estate, 'our top Pinot Noir, the 'Josephine', with lashings of fine new French oak, is developing into one of the best Pinot Noir wines ever to come out of the Canberra District'.

Other Lerida Estate wines awarded medals this year include the 2009 Pinot Rosé, the 2009 Viognier, the 2009 Unwooded Chardonnay, the 2008 Chardonnay, the 2009 Riesling, the 2008 Shiraz and the 2008 Merlot Cabernet Franc. The medals for this last wine follows on from the trophy for the best Bordeaux style wine which was awarded to the Lerida Estate 2007 Merlot Cabernet Franc.

According to Lerida Estate's winemaker, Malcolm Burdett, 'there are no secrets in winemaking, only unrelenting attention to detail in every activity, from hand picking and sorting all fruit, to oak selection and temperature control'. While medals are not the only thing that most people consider when they are buying wines, it is reassuring to know that wine judges around Australia have recognised the quality of the wines made at Lerida Estate. This is a vote of confidence in both Canberra's Lake George terroir, as well as the winemaker's skills.

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For a full list of the awards : see www.leridaestate.com.au/pages/Awards.html