

raise a glass

The World Champagne Day dinner at Wolgan Valley was a magical event, writes Natalie Hayllar.

TO CELEBRATE World Champagne Day, Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley resort hosted the first of two Champagne dinners with *Country Style* and The Champagne Bureau of Australia.

Guests gathered at dusk for Champagne and canapés on the verandah overlooking the rugged escarpment, before *Country Style's* editor-in-chief, Victoria Carey, welcomed them to the private dining room. Guest chef Ross Lusted, from Sydney's The Bridge Room, created an unforgettable four-course menu featuring exquisite local produce.

"Champagne wines exhibit a wide variety of aromas and can be easily paired with most foods," said Elisabeth Drysdale, director of The Champagne Bureau.

"These dinners are a great way for people to experiment with matching food and Champagne."

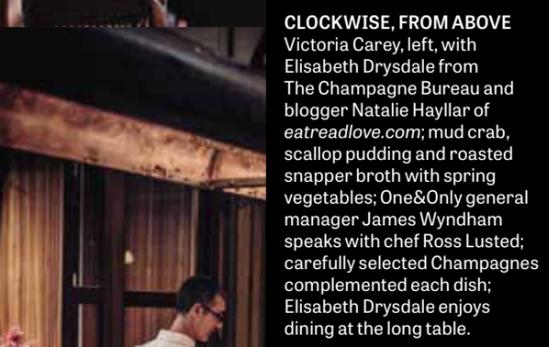
As Australia's love affair with Champagne develops, this dinner series provides an opportunity to learn more about this celebrated wine region. What better place to experience this sensory delight than at Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley? *CS*

CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT The table is set for a lavish meal; *Country Style's* Victoria Carey welcomes diners to the celebration; the resort offers relaxation in scenic surroundings; gracious interiors in the resort; canapés served on the verandah.



CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE Emirates One&Only Wolgan Valley nestles between the Wollemi National Park and the Gardens of Stone National Park in the World Heritage-listed Greater Blue Mountains Area of NSW; the superbly elegant Wolgan dining room; bread paper, sheep's milk curd, apple and celery salt canapés were served on the verandah.

CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE Victoria Carey, left, with Elisabeth Drysdale from The Champagne Bureau and blogger Natalie Hayllar of *eatreadlove.com*; mud crab, scallop pudding and roasted snapper broth with spring vegetables; One&Only general manager James Wyndham speaks with chef Ross Lusted; carefully selected Champagnes complemented each dish; Elisabeth Drysdale enjoys dining at the long table.



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