



The fine art of catering

John And Peter, the Sydney caterer that slipped into the limelight when it prepared the chow at the Kidman-Urban nuptials, has opened a London office. Co-owner **John Wilson** (pictured) wants a crack at high-end European events, kicking off with a gig at the **Venice Biennale** next week.

"We're moving away from the sausage. Australia has always been represented by the barbecue," he says.

He is doing something more perilous: serving Italian food to Italians.

"We want to show them Australia has a sophisticated understanding of Italian food."

Chocolate connoisseurs rejoice!

Seriously, has someone checked this city's chocolate consumption lately? With **Lindt** and **Guylian** chocolate cafes across the city and new **Vanderwee Chocolates** in Double Bay and **Belle Fleur** on Parramatta Road, sweet teeth are well covered. But wait, there's more. **The Chocolate Room** opens on Sussex Street in the city in about two weeks, followed by a Parramatta store. The "specialist chocolate indulgence cafe" has Victorian stores and one in India.



Melbourne's man with the Midas touch goes solo

What's going on at **Pizza e Birra** and **Mille Vini**, two of the busiest joints on Crown Street, Surry Hills?

Mauro Marcucci (pictured), the Melbourne operator with the Midas touch, who is a partner in the businesses, phoned Short Black saying he wants customers to know, "I'm no longer involved in day to day operations ... I'm on my way out of the partnership."



Photo: Lee Besford

Very curious. Marcucci wouldn't elaborate and his partners weren't available for comment.

Marcucci says he knows nothing about rumours of another Pizza e Birra project near **The Beresford Hotel**, but wants to do his own solo ventures in Sydney down the track.

+ The 2009 Sydney Royal Fine Food Show champions are announced. They include the white vienna loaf at Chester Square Bakery, at Chester Hill, the rosemary pane croccante at Brasserie Bread and the surf'n'turf pie at Mick's Bakehouse, Leeton.

+ Prawn wrapped in prosciutto with balsamic dressing doesn't sound overly Japanese, but it's on the menu at the new **Wako Japanese restaurant** in Chinatown.

+ Sommelier Nicolas Cleradin has jumped ship from Galileo to Altitude restaurant.

LONG BLACK From pharmacy to supermarket

Yoghurt pioneer Daniel Carasso died in Paris aged 103. His father, Isaac Carasso, launched the Danone brand - named after Daniel - in 1919 when yoghurt was only found in a few countries. At first, it was sold by prescription in pharmacies. Daniel popularised the food and made Danone into a global brand.

The New York Times

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