

Acclaimed Walla Walla Valley vintner L'Ecole N° 41 visits McCall for latest Shore Lodge winemaker's dinner

MCCALL, Idaho (Oct. 12, 2011) -- The artisan wines from Walla Walla Valley vintner L'Ecole N° 41 will share the spotlight with Executive Chef Eric Gruber's globally influenced Northwest cuisine at Shore Lodge's signature restaurant, [The Narrows](#), on Saturday Nov. 5 at 6:30 p.m.

L'Ecole N° 41 is a second-generation, family-owned artisan winery located in a historic Frenchtown School in Lowden, Wash. Founded in 1983, it is the third oldest winery in the Walla Walla Valley and enjoys national and international distribution. One of the most prominent and visible wineries from the Walla Walla Valley, L'Ecole N° 41 has been dubbed Winery of the Year for the last nine consecutive years by Wine & Spirits Magazine, and it is the second Washington winery inducted into the publication's prestigious Hall of Fame. Visit www.lecole.com for more details about the vintner and its renowned wines.

Chef Gruber is developing a special prix fixe menu tailor made to the featured vintages. The menus at The Narrows and the other restaurants onsite at Shore Lodge, Whitetail Club and The Cove focus on fresh, seasonal, local and regional ingredients. [Big Sky Journal](#) and [The Idaho Statesman](#) recently raved about the dining experience at The Narrows, and Chef Gruber has earned nods from the *National Culinary Review* and [Every Day With Rachael Ray](#).

The Narrows recently earned an [Award of Excellence from Wine Spectator](#) in the 30th Anniversary edition of the magazine's coveted Restaurant Wine List Awards issue. *Wine Spectator* honors restaurants with wine lists that offer interesting selections, are appropriate to the cuisine in both price and style, and appeal to a wide range of wine lovers. The magazine -- which boasts a circulation of more than 2.5 million readers worldwide -- reported wines at The Narrows are moderately priced and that the fine-dining establishment's selection is especially strong when it comes to vintages from Washington, Oregon and California.

The Nov. 5 winemaker's dinner costs \$125 per person* and includes L'Ecole N° 41 pairings with each course. Shore Lodge is also offering a special lodging package for the event priced at \$349** that includes dinner for two and one night's lodging for two in a lake-view suite. Reservations are required and can be made by phoning (208) 634-2244.

About Chef Gruber

Chef Eric Gruber brings more than two decades of culinary experience and knowledge to Shore Lodge, Whitetail Club and The Cove in McCall, Idaho. A graduate of the Scottsdale Culinary Institute who has worked at several 4-star, 4-diamond establishments, Chef Gruber has served as executive chef at the resort properties since September 2008. His philosophy of building menus around seasonal and regional ingredient-driven cuisine is showcased most notably at The Narrows, Shore Lodge's fine-dining restaurant. Locally sourced products like grass-fed lamb from Hailey, Idaho, with mountain huckleberries picked fresh in McCall are highlights of the menu. He serves on the advisory board of BehindTheKnife.com, a website about chefs' arsenals of tools and the stories behind them, and he's a frequent guest on local morning TV talk shows throughout Idaho.

About Shore Lodge

Established in 1948 and nestled on the sandy, southern shores of glacier-carved Payette Lake, the historic Shore Lodge is a quintessential mountain retreat. The boutique resort's amenities are second to none and include 77 suites (61 of which boast lake views), exquisite fine dining, a private beach and outdoor marina, a lakeside year-round swimming pool and hot tubs, and access to Whitetail Club, one of the best golf courses in the country boasting one of the nation's top golf pros. In addition, the resort is home to The Cove -- a new, world-class, extended-stay spa that opened in June. Shore Lodge is nearby the largest area of protected wilderness in the continental United States and three major river systems. The resort is also only 10 minutes from Brundage Mountain, which Ski Magazine says has "the best powder in North America" and which provides lift-assisted access to more than 20 miles of mountain bike trails. Visit www.shorelodgemccall.com for more information.

About McCall, Idaho

Idaho's state capitol of Boise boasts an international airport with service by eight major airlines. Located just two hours north of Boise via the Payette Scenic Byway, McCall is a four-season mountain resort town set on the shores of Payette Lake — a breathtakingly beautiful lake surrounded by the western edge of the Rocky Mountains. With roots in mining, logging, and ranching and its friendly, small-town atmosphere, McCall has emerged as a preferred vacation and second-home-ownership destination for people from around the country who enjoy the outdoors. Uniquely situated in the heart of Payette National Forest, McCall provides prime access to more than 2.3 million acres of lush forests, deep river gorges and glacial lakes -- all perched atop the Idaho Batholith, the largest body of granite in the country. Glaciers played a key role in shaping the terrain in and around McCall, with Payette Lake and the many alpine lakes and Payette, Salmon, and Snake Rivers nearby all formed by glacial erosion. Outdoors enthusiasts trek to McCall for the skiing and snowshoeing, miles of summer hiking and winter cross-country and snowmobile trails, boating and waterskiing, fishing, golf, whitewater rafting and kayaking, biking, and horseback and ATV riding. Visit www.mccallchamber.org for more information.

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* Prices do not include tax or gratuity.

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