
***Turisme de Catalunya* presents its offer on the occasion of the Savonlinna Opera Festival in Finland**

As part of the festival's programme, a seminar about Catalonia took place with the participation of Eulàlia Cabana, the Head of the Catalan Tourist Promotion Centre for the Nordic Countries

Wednesday, 3 August 2005— This year Catalonia plays an important role at the Savonlinna Opera Festival (Finland) that run from yesterday till the next 6 August.

The inauguration of the festival, which took place yesterday, included a seminar titled "Catalonia: An Example of the Europe of the Regions", given by Professor Esko Antola from the University of Turku in Finland. During the same seminar, Eulàlia Cabana, the Head of the Catalan Tourist Promotion Centre for the Nordic Countries, gave a conference on Catalonia as a tourist destination.

The event was attended by some five hundred people, and was closed with a debate between those attending and the speakers. From the tourist point of view, the interest shown for Catalonia's cultural activity by those attending must be remarked upon.

The Gran Teatre del Liceu, the Guest from Catalonia

Every summer since 1967 there takes place in Finland the Savonlinna Opera Festival. It is one of the most popular cultural events in the country. Since 1987, the Festival invites an opera company from abroad. The company chosen this year was the Gran Teatre del Liceu, which became the first Spanish theatre to participate in it. Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu will represent two spectacles at this Finnish opera festival, namely 'L'elisir d'amore' and 'Spanish Evening'.