

Cape Town gets ready for its Third Consular Ball



It is almost time for the who's who of Cape Town to gather at the Pigalle Restaurant – the venue where the glittering Consular Ball will take place on 25 October.

Leading businessman, **Dr. Christo Wiese** will be the guest speaker at this black-tie event designed to let the 250 guests experience the best the Western Cape has to offer - from **Simonsig's** sparkling wine to the **Pigalle's** famous langoustine platter to the delectable handmade **Chocolates by Tomes**.

Guests will also be treated to the heavenly voices of members of the **Stellenbosch University Choir** under the leadership of **André van der Merwe**. This choir is not only the best in the Western Cape but the best in the world as proved earlier this year at the Choir Games in Latvia. The choir was crowned champion in all three of its categories and also received the highest score ever awarded to any mixed choir in the history of the Choir Games: a whopping 99%.

Master of ceremonies for the evening will be a pleasant surprise for many guests, **Eon de Vos**, the well-known TV presenter who left the glamorous world of live television to pursue his other passion - flying. Today he is a pilot at British Airways and has agreed to come out of retirement from the entertainment world for one night to be part of the Consular Ball.

The Consular Ball's main objective is to support the Mother City's disadvantaged communities and funds are raised by the unconventional auction of unique items. This year fireball **Ariella Kuper** from **Clear Asset**, considered to be S.A.'s leading female auctioneer, will encourage guests to dig deep into their pockets to help make a difference in the lives of many young people.



This year's auction boasts an impressive line-up of well-known personalities who will be giving freely of themselves to help raise funds. Top of the list is the inimitable visionary **Clem Sunter** who will be auctioned off for a lunch or dinner with the highest bidder and 8 of his or her closest friends. This will be a unique chance to enjoy Clem's wisdom in an intimate setting while tapping into that brilliant mind.

Lionel Smit, one of S.A.'s brightest stars in the world of art, is currently exhibiting in Hong Kong. He won various awards with his contemporary portraiture at his exhibition in the National Portrait Gallery in London last year. One guest will be able to buy a signed and numbered Lionel Smit etching, plus get the chance to pay the artist a visit in his studio to watch him work.



Also on offer is a chance for a couple and four of their friends to wine and dine with heartthrob **Ryk Neethling** at the top rated **Val de Vie Estate** in the Paarl valley. The couple will stay in a **Protea Hotel** of their choice for the weekend from where they will be fetched by **Royal Limousine Services**



and driven in luxury to the airport. They will be met by **Dr. Mike Honsa**, owner of **Fantasy Cars**, who will fly the couple in his private helicopter to **Tokara Wine Estate** in Helshoogte for a wine tasting with their friends. Afterwards, the couple will again be able to enjoy a bird's eye view of the glorious winelands when they are flown to the Val de Vie Estate where the group will be treated to a scrumptious lunch hosted by Ryk Neethling.

Another of the evening's highlights will be the **Tombola** where guests can purchase tickets and win prizes in a lucky draw. This year the Tombola will boast items donated by the various consulates that are typical of their countries. From **Japan** there will be two traditional **Yukata's** – male and female summer kimonos, complete with English instructions on how to wear them. **Georgia** has donated a beautiful carafe of **Saperavi** red wine, **Slovakia** has opted for traditional **crystal ware** and **Sweden's** contribution is a **Hästens** luxury travel pillow.

The Consular Ball promises once again to be a diverse evening full of colour and flavour - fitting for the rainbow nation!

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It is my pleasure to endorse the Cape Town Consular Corps Ball, a unique event that harnesses goodwill and much-needed resources for worthy causes helping children and young people in disadvantaged circumstances. It is commendable that over 40 consular missions represented in Cape Town support the Ball to make it this one-of-a-kind fundraising platform. I encourage everyone who can to be generous in the auction and to contribute to this philanthropic effort.

HELEN ZILLE

WESTERN CAPE PREMIER

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For more information about this prestigious event contact

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The Consular Ball will be featured on Bravo, a glitz and glamour magazine programme on DSTV that is a showcase for South Africa

THIS YEAR THE PROCEEDS OF THE CONSULAR BALL WILL BE DIVIDED BETWEEN THE FOLLOWING THREE CHARITIES

DURBANVILLE CHILDREN'S HOME:

This safe haven has nurtured vulnerable children for 131 years and their focus is the care, development and rehabilitation of the children between the ages of 2 and 8 years who are placed with them.



CAPE TIMES BURSARY FUND

Skills for our children - that's the spirit of this fund that has helped more than 500 young people since 1982 to secure their futures by giving them access to higher education.



PROUD PARTNERS

This NGO is involved in a number of educational projects that include the care and development of pre-school children in disadvantaged communities. They also donate musical instruments to talented young people who cannot afford their own.

