

Consular Ball shines for charity once again



The third annual Consular Ball was a glittering event that took place at the Pigalle Restaurant in Green Point on 25 October. The black-tie affair raised R452 000 for local charities – a 37% increase on the amount raised last year.

The Consular Ball was attended by Ambassadors, Consuls General and Honorary Consuls from more than 20 countries as well as their friends and business associates. The Speaker of the provincial parliament, the provincial government and the Deputy Mayor of Cape Town also supported the event by purchasing tables. The evening was designed to let the 260 guests experience the best the Western Cape has to offer.



"I had my dream team" confided **Isabel Verwey**, organiser of the Consular Ball. "One of S.A.'s leading businessmen, **Dr. Christo Wiese**, was our guest speaker and his optimism about South Africa was an eye-opener and well received by everyone. The Pigalle's cuisine, including its famous langoustine platter, was magnificent and as a special treat for the wine connoisseurs we had the 2005 Le Manoir de Brendel Shiraz. The guests were in the capable hands of **Eon de Vos** – the well-known and respected TV-presenter of 30 years ago whom I cajoled into coming out of retirement from the limelight to be the MC for the evening.



"We had S.A.'s leading female auctioneer - **Ariella Kuper** of **Clear Asset**. She was a real live wire, humorous and so enthusiastic that everybody was looking forward to parting with their money! But my secret weapon for the evening was the members of the fabulous **Stellenbosch University Choir** whose heavenly voices moved some guests to tears."



At the Choir Games in Latvia earlier this year, the Stellenbosch University Choir under the leadership of choirmaster **Andre van der Merwe**, was crowned the winners in all three its categories. It shattered all records by receiving the highest score ever awarded to a mixed choir in the history of the Games and is currently ranked number 1 on the Interkultur World Ranking list of the top 1000 international choirs.

Part of the Consular Ball's success is the unconventional auction items that are handpicked and not available in shops. "We take care to source unique items and experiences that will interest our

guests and tickle their fancy," said Isabel Verwey. "The auction item that fetched the highest bid was a moonlight picnic under a tree outside Wellington with wildlife celebrity **Dave Pepler**. The tree is the home for the night of around 6 000 small falcons who migrates each year from places as far as Mongolia – and would you believe it, the bid was won by a falconer from Belgium who hunts with falcons and has never seen so many falcons together!" Another unique item was the **Hästens Pamper Day** that had couples clamouring to bid for the ultimate day of luxurious treats.



A fun element of the evening was the Tombola or lucky draw, which this year consisted of items donated by the various consulates and which are typical of their countries. Among items like Colombian jewellery, a Delft Plate from the Netherlands, Spanish sparkling wine, Japanese kimono's and Slovenian crystal, there were also big prizes for a few lucky guests: two return tickets to Mauritius on **Air Mauritius**, a week's stay in an



“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.”

HELEN ZILLE
WESTERN CAPE PREMIER



apartment on a beach in Crete and two return flights to Zurich from **Edelweiss**. A fun time was had by all and in the process much-needed funding was secured for the very worthy charities that will benefit from the Consular Ball.

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 18 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.

