

Diplomats ready to expand horizons with Annual Consular Ball



The date has been set for this year's glittering Consular Ball and all indications are that the event will again surprise and delight the 300 guests from Cape Town and around the world. Not only will they be able to experience the best the Mother City has to offer, but will also be part of a fund raising challenge to break through the half million rand barrier.

The Consular Corps in Cape Town consists of 50 countries represented by consuls general and honorary consuls. The various consular missions support the Ball by buying tables and inviting their friends and business associates to share the evening with them. The event has always been well supported by the local government, prominent business leaders and role players in the Western Cape.

To accommodate the Rugby World Cup in October, the Consular Ball will take place on **26 September** at the **Pigalle Restaurant** in Green Point this year. Guests can again look forward to a 5-star evening filled with treats. For the gourmets there will be fine cuisine like the Pigalle's famous signature dish, the seafood platter and the wine connoisseurs will enjoy the award-winning wines of **Le Manoir de Brendel** wine estate in Franschhoek.



"And of course, as the cherry on top the famous Stellenbosch University Choir will perform at the event again," says **Isabel Verwey**, wife of the deputy dean of the Corps and organiser of the Consular Ball. "The choir sang at last year's Ball and the guests were enthralled by their heavenly voices – after all, they were crowned the world champions at the 2014 Choir Games in Latvia, and we want to boast a bit with South Africa's best at our Consular Ball!"

Guests will be welcomed by one of South Africa's top local stars – **Jo-Ann Strauss**.



This former Miss South Africa and popular TV presenter is also an entrepreneur and public speaker par excellence and will be the MC for the evening.

The main objective of the Ball is to raise funds in support of local charities that focus on disadvantaged young people. This is done by the unique auction that has become well known for the unconventional items on offer for the evening.

"We try to find auction items that cannot be bought in a shop and it is a challenge which the Consular Corps is delighted to participate in" says Isabel. "This year guests will be able to bid on a rare and never-to-be-repeated experience – an evening at the Spanish Consul General's residence where the Consul General, **Agustin Santos** will personally cook his famous Paella for the highest bidder and 30 of his or her friends! It will be a truly authentic Spanish evening with wine imported from Spain to round it off."



For the art lovers there will be a special item on offer – a resin sculpture of **Lionel Smit**, considered one of S.A.'s youngest investment artists. He is best known for his contemporary portraiture executed through monumental canvases and sculptures. He has exhibited all over the world, most recently in London and Hong Kong and has won numerous awards. Not only will the highest bidder be able to take a Lionel Smit sculpture home, but will also be invited to meet the artist at his studio in Somerset West to view his latest works.

This year **Investec Asset Management** had pledged their support by sponsoring a unique auction item. Investec is involved in the plight of the rhinoceros in South Africa and as the latest statistics show that our rhinos are now being killed at a rate of 3.3 a day, time is running out to prevent this magnificent animal from becoming extinct. In 2012, the **Investec Rhino Lifeline** was established with partners, **Dr Will Fowlds** and the **Wilderness Foundation** to respond to this crisis.



Investec will donate a rhino experience to the highest bidder that will include flights and accommodation for 4 people at a private game reserve in the Eastern Cape. They will be part of a team, led by Dr Fowlds, that tracks a rhino and will witness the darting that is part of an initiative to build a DNA database of all the rhinos in the Eastern Cape.

"This is truly an once-in-a-lifetime experience" says **Jeremy Gardiner** of Investec. "Once you are standing next to the darted animal, you have the opportunity to feel its skin, listen to it snorting and take photos with the animal. "Once you've grasped the size and magnificence of the creature, it puts the whole horror that is poaching into perspective."

Since its inception in 2012, the Consular Ball has become one of the highlights on Cape Town's social calendar, with international representatives and local South Africans joining forces to provide help where it is most needed – to the young people of this country. The Consular Corps of Cape Town is proud of this incentive that is much more than just another glamorous event. It is a philanthropic effort that deserves the support of all Capetonians.

MR BARY RAFATROLAZA,
DEAN OF THE CONSULAR CORPS
OF CAPE TOWN AND
CONSUL GENERAL OF MADAGASCAR

Be part of this prestigious event by booking a table or donating an auction item.

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fortunate." Fortunately there is a happy ending to this adventure as the rhino will be woken up after 7 minutes and, although still groggy, he will be ready to return to freedom.

The auction will once again be in the capable and energetic hands of S.A.'s leading female auctioneer, **Ariella Kuper** of Clear Asset.

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 132 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.



CAPE TIMES BURSARY FUND

