

Consular Ball sets record with R800 000 for Charity

The Consular Ball reached new heights by raising R800 000 for four local charities – a 77% increase on the amount raised last year.

The black-tie affair which took place on 26 September, at Pigalle Restaurant in Green Point, was attended by diplomats and honorary consuls representing 20 countries, their friends and business associates. The mayor's office and the local business community also supported the glittering event that is designed to let guests experience the best Cape Town has to offer.



The guest speaker was **Simon Susman**, Chairman of Woolworths, who gave the 250 guests a rare glimpse into one of SA's most successful businesses by outlining the seven principles in accordance with which the Woolworths business journey is managed.

The guests were in the capable hands of TV personality, **Jo-Ann Strauss**, and **Ariella Kuper** of Clear Asset was the auctioneer for the evening.

"Ariella is my secret weapon," smiles **Isabel Verwey**, organiser of the



Consular Ball. "She drives a hard bargain with so much energy, enthusiasm and charm that it is infectious and electrifies the entire room! And of course, the Consular Ball is well known for its unconventional auction – we take care to source unique items and experiences that will interest our guests and tickle their fancy."

The auction item that fetched the highest bid was a once-in-a-lifetime rhino-darting experience for four people sponsored by **Investec Asset Management**. The **Investec Rhino Lifeline** was established in 2012 in



collaboration with Dr Will Fowlds and the Wilderness Foundation to respond to the escalating poaching crisis. The auction item includes flights to and accommodation at a private game reserve as well as a chance to be part of a team, led by Dr Fowlds, who tracks a rhino to build a DNA database. The bidding was so lively that **Investec** decided to **double** their sponsorship and donate two rhino experiences – to the delight of the bidders and guests alike.

The item that fetched the second highest amount was an evening at the residence of the Spanish Consul General, **Agustin Santos**, who will personally cook his famous paella for 30 of the highest bidder's friends. Wine imported from Spain will round it all off. Guests were also intrigued by a model who walked around the room, showing off a handmade shawl from **Errol Arendz** that was part of the auction items.



The fun element of the evening was the Tombola or lucky draw where guests could win unique prizes donated by the various consulates. Guests were holding thumbs for the biggest prize of them all - return flights for two from Cape Town to Zurich, courtesy of **Edelweiss Air**. This year the proceeds of the Consular Ball will be divided between the following four charities: **Durbanville Children's Home**, **Cape Times Bursary Fund**, **Proud Partners** and **She-Chem** – a feeding scheme that operates in Hanover Park.

As the main objective of the Consular Ball is to support the Mother City's disadvantaged communities, the gifts for the guests also reflected that sentiment. The ladies received a candle holder from **T-bag Designs** of Hout Bay where local women manufacture various products from used teabags. The teabags are dried out and used as canvasses on which to paint designs



on the products. The men received handcrafted soap from **Wild Olive** Apothecary and Perfumery – owned by a Romanian lady, **Madalina Bhatia**, who established the factory to create jobs by teaching local people her art.

Guests were also treated to a performance by **Die Nuwe Graskoue Trappers** – the group of Riel dancers from the small town of Wuppertal who won four gold medals in Los Angeles earlier this year.

CAPE TOWN
Consular
CORPS

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Thank you to the Consular Corps for once again organising this wonderful Ball that has become a prime social event on Cape Town's event calendar. Hard work and dedication has paid off in bringing great benefit to children of the City.

Thank you to everyone involved, to the sponsors and to those who attended and gave so much so willingly.

ALDERMAN IAN NEILSON
EXECUTIVE DEPUTY MAYOR

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And to round off the evening, the **Stellenbosch University Choir** enthralled the guests with a few songs. The choir is currently Number One on the Interkultur World Rankings list of the top 1 000 international choirs. As a last encore they performed a Xhosa song that is also a prayer – a fitting end to a magical evening that will leave all who were fortunate enough to attend with precious memories and provide hope for many children and young people in Cape Town.



INDEPENDENT

