

A feast awaits Capetonians at the Fifth Consular Ball

This year the glittering Consular Ball, hosted by diplomats for their friends and business associates, celebrates its fifth year with star-packed entertainment and brilliant auction items.



The main objective of the Ball is to raise funds for four local charities that focus on Cape Town's underprivileged youth. An important and much-anticipated part of the evening is the unique auction of unorthodox items that cannot be bought in a shop.



One of the never-to-be-repeated items on auction has been handcrafted for the adventurous by South Africa's wildlife celebrity and TV host, **Dave Pepler**. *The Last Living Link to a Legend* item presents a unique opportunity for the highest bidder and four of his/her friends to follow in the footsteps of the late **Dian Fossey** – portrayed by Sigourney Weaver in the iconic film *Gorillas in the Mist*. They will accompany Dave on a five-day safari to Rwanda where they will be led by **Francois**, Dian Fossey's own guide, to meet the gorillas that she was so passionate about. This experience will never be repeated as Francois is retiring

at the end of next year. It is therefore the very last chance for gorilla lovers to experience the primates through the eyes of one of the most celebrated guides in Africa.

During the five day safari the visitors will be in the professional care of one of Rwanda's leading safari tour operators, **Primate Safaris**, and will stay at some of the most beautiful camps in Africa, including one night at **Lake Kivu Serena** and two nights at the exquisite **Ruzizi Tented Camp**. They will go on daily drives and get up close and personal with the gorillas under the expert and watchful eyes of Francois and Dave. This will truly be an once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Other unique auction items have been donated by members of the Consular Corps and this year guests will be spoilt for choice for a chance to get to know the diplomats on a social level. First on offer will be a **traditional Asado Paraguayo** – a barbeque of enormous proportions – for 15 people hosted by the Honorary Consul of Paraguay, **Mirella Kruger**, at her private residence.

The British High Commissioner, **Dame Judith Macgregor**, has offered to host a **traditional British tea** for eight people in the garden of her historic Bishops court residence.

Lovers of Italian culture will be able to bid for four seats at the first annual **Scents, Sounds and Flavours of Italy**.

This sensory dining experience for 12 people will be hosted by the Consul of Italy, **Alfonso Tagliaferri**, at his private residence.



It is not only members of the Consular Corps who step up to the challenge of making a difference in the lives of our local youth; the Consular Ball is the one event that is also well supported by local business leaders. **Dr Christo Wiese** has offered a two-night stay for four people at his exclusive **Kalahari Oryx Game Reserve** near Upington. The highest bidder and his/her friends will be treated to activities like clay pigeon shooting, daily game drives to see the reserve's 64 mammal species (including 4 of the big 5) and feasting on excellent local cuisine.

This year guests at the Ball can look forward to foot-tapping songs from **Alistair Izobell's** show **Remembering the Lux** – an exuberant tribute to the legendary Luxurama Theatre in Wynberg. The theatre opened in 1964, had 1 444 seats and provided a platform for local as well as international artists of



The Consular Ball will take place in the Ballroom at Kelvin Grove Club in Newlands on 22 October.

To book a table for this prestigious event, contact

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all races to perform. The show, written and directed by Alistair Izobell and **Lara Foot**, had an extended season at the Baxter Theatre due to popular demand and will run until 17 September. It is a heart-warming show and perfect for the Consular Ball, showcasing the best of South Africa's local talent.



Another highlight will be the annual **Tombola** or lucky draw with prizes donated by the various countries. Guests can once again win two return tickets from Cape Town to Mauritius courtesy of **Air Mauritius**. The airline's SSR Airport was named Best Airport in Africa 2016 and recently increased its luggage to 2 x 23 kg in economy class and 2 x 32 kg in business class – much to the satisfaction of its passengers.

"I am confident that this year's Consular Ball will delight the diplomats and their guests alike," says Isabel Verwey, organiser of the Ball. *"We only have three tables left and I would advise businesses that would like to be part of this event to book as soon as possible. It is going to be a very special evening!"*

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 133 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.

