Consular Ball excites

with auction items tailor-made for gastronomists

This year the glittering Consular Ball, hosted by diplomats for their friends and business associates, celebrates its sixth year with a variety of auction items that will delight food connoisseurs.



Topping the list of never-to-be-repeated items is a visit to Slovenia to meet the world's best female chef, Ana Roš and have dinner at her restaurant. The trip for two persons is hand-crafted by the Honorary Consul General of Slovenia, Dr Prieur du Plessis, and kicks off with two business class tickets on Turkish Airlines to Istanbul. Turkish Airlines flies to more countries than any other airline and is celebrating its 10th anniversary of flying in S.A. As part of the celebrations it has a special offer for economy class passengers of one night's free accommodation in a 4-star hotel in Istanbul while business class passengers get two night's free accommodation in a 5-star hotel.



From Istanbul the highest bidder will fly with **Turkish Airlines** to Slovenia where they will stay for a week in the capital Ljubljana, famous for its lively old city, Dragon Bridge and impressive architecture. From there they will be chauffeur-driven on various day trips to Slovenia's most famous sights like the jaw-dropping **Postojna** caves – the second



largest in Europe. Another destination will be the medieval Bled Castle and picture-perfect church in the middle of Lake Bled. The 500-year old Gothic church has 99 steps and local bridegrooms have to carry their brides up the steps and ring the church bell three times for a wish to come true...!

The highlight of the trip will be a tasting of the culinary delights of **Ana Roš**, voted the World's **Best Female Chef 2017** by more than 1000 international industry judges for the World's 50 Best Restaurants Awards. Ms Roš creates her masterpieces in the **Soča** Valley and her restaurant **Hiša Franko** has become a pilgrimage site for gastronomists from all over the world. The winners will overnight at her guesthouse and will also receive her recommendation for restaurants and dishes in Slovenia.

Not to be outdone, local celebrity chef **Bertus Basson** is offering a gourmet experience for eight persons at his Top 10 restaurant, **Overture**, as an auction item. It will be a special 6-course menu paired with some of S.A's best wines. But there is a twist – the highest bidder will send



Bertus a list of his favourite ingredients and the chef will create a special dish the group of friends can enjoy as part of the evening's menu.

This year for the first time the auction will also be online, giving people who cannot attend the Consular Ball the opportunity to bid. Anyone who is interested in any of the auction items described here can visit the website **www.clearasset.co.za** and put in a bid. ***The highest bidders for the five most exclusive items will be invited to the Ball along with their partners as guests of the Consular Corps to take part in the live auction.***

The **Distell Group** is also supporting the Consular Ball this year by sponsoring a very exclusive dinner for 18 guests inside the magnificent **Bergkelder** wine cellar. This is the preferred venue for Distell when treating special guests to dinner and the unique ambience and fine cuisine make it an unforgettable experience. A wine master will conduct the wine pairing.

Another highlight on the Consular Ball's auction menu is a private tour for eight persons of the building that previously housed the **Cape Town Club** – it is one of oldest and most beautiful buildings in the Mother City. The tour will be conducted by the Russian Consul General, **Roman Ambarov**, and the Club's General Manager and will be followed by a Russian vodka and caviar pairing in the historic lounge. "We cannot rule out the possibility of a ghost encounter", smiles Isabel Verwey, organiser of the Ball, "but there will be enough vodka to calm everyone's nerves!"

Another culinary feast on offer is Raclette for 10 persons at the residence of the Consul General of Switzerland, **Andreas Maager** and his wife, **Claudine**. "This is a typical Swiss dish that is the equivalent of a South African braai – but instead of meat, think cheese!" says Isabel. "It is a lovely way to spend a lazy afternoon with friends and definitely one of our more palatable auction items!"

"Over the past years, the Consular Ball has solidified its position as one of the key annual celebratory moments in the year. What makes the event special is that the Consular Corps joins in trying to give back to the Cape Town community that has gracefully welcomed us and our families into their lives and society. On 18 November the Consular Corps will step up and show that "No one has ever become poor by giving"

(quote from Anne Frank).

Bonnie Horbach, Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Dean of the Cape Town Consular Corps

Be part of this prestigious event by booking a table or bidding online at www.clearasset.co.za

For further information contact **Johanna Strauss** at **083 305 0472** or jstrauss@durbanvillekinderhuis.org.za

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 134 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.









Durbanville Kinderhuis Childrens Home

PROUD PARTNERS

Overture

INDEPENDENT

TURKISH AIRLINES

DISTELL

HIŠA FRANKO CASA