

Consular Ball raises record amount for charity

The glittering event took place at the Kelvin Grove Ballroom on 18 November and raised R950 000 for four local charities – an increase of R250 000 on last year's Ball.

The black-tie affair was attended by diplomats and honorary consuls representing 25 countries, as well as their friends and business associates. The mayor's office, Independent Newspapers and the local business community also supported the annual event which is designed to let the 250 guests experience the best Cape Town has to offer.



Even the weather played along and the guests could first enjoy a welcome drink on the terrace outside the Kelvin Grove entrance while admiring the beautiful surroundings.

"This year's Ball was an exceptional event!," said Isabel Verwey, wife of the Deputy Dean of the Corps and organiser of the event. "I was fortunate to have had my dream team for the evening. Anton van Zyl from To-Nette's Flowers and Decor transformed the already elegant venue into a breath-taking ballroom and the guests were intrigued by a beautiful girl in a fairy-tale dress who welcomed them at the entrance.



"The evening went smoothly in the capable hands of our charming MC, TV-celebrity Dr Michael Moll, and S.A.'s leading female auctioneer, Ariella Kuper from Clear Asset, was as always superb conducting the auction with great enthusiasm!"



The highlight of the auction was a trip for two persons to Slovenia where they will stay for a week and meet the 2017 World's Best Female Chef, Ana Roš. The item included 2 return flights, Business Class, on Turkish Airlines which is celebrating its 10th anniversary in S.A. this year. The bidding was so fierce that it was decided there and then to double the item – and two trips to this charming country were promptly auctioned off.



The entertainment at this year's Ball was the a capella group, Navi Redd who flew in from Gauteng for the night and had the guests on their feet with their riveting performance of classic songs. "I've been a fan of Navi Redd for many years," said Isabel. "They've perfected the a capella

style and their repertoire includes a variety of musical disciplines. They always have an instant rapport with their audiences and have a bass the King Singers would kill for....!"



Another highlight was the surprise performance of the award-winning Tygerberg Children's Choir under the baton of choir master Hendrick Look. One of the unique auction items was a performance by this choir in Dylan Lewis's exquisite Sculpture Garden in Stellenbosch and the heavenly voices of the 60 children enthralled the guests at the Ball.



The Tombola has always been a favourite part of the evening when guests can buy tickets at R100 each to win prizes donated by the various consulates. This year the biggest prize all the guests hoped to win was a 6 night all-inclusive holiday in the Maldives. The vacation that includes direct flights from Johannesburg on Maldivian



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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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Airlines was arranged by Perfect Destinations and the Honorary Consul of the Maldives, Ms Naziema Jappie presented it to the winners, Renier and Carolien Kriek.

"Then something extra-ordinary happened," said Isabel. "The couple decided to donate this dream-holiday back to the Consular Ball to be sold as an auction item – all in the spirit of the evening to raise funds for the less fortunate. It was an amazing gesture that delighted the guests and ensured a further R80 000 for our charities!"

To round off the evening, the Consul General of Brazil, Carlos Asfora, went on stage to sing a few songs with the local band, the Cape Jazz Ensemble. It was a fitting end to a magical night where the fusion of international and local communities proved to be a winning recipe.

