

CONSULAR BALL

EXCITES WITH IMPRESSIVE LINE-UP OF UNIQUE AUCTION ITEMS

The much-anticipated 7th Consular Ball will be hosted by Cape Town's Consular Corps for their friends and associates at the Kelvin Grove Ballroom on 10 November.



The main objective of this glittering event is to raise much-needed funds for four local charities. According to Isabel Verwey, wife of the deputy dean and organiser of the Ball, there has never been such an extra-ordinary line-up of auction items. "As there won't be a Ball next year, we've really pulled out all the stops to ensure bidders will find that one item that tickles their fancy.

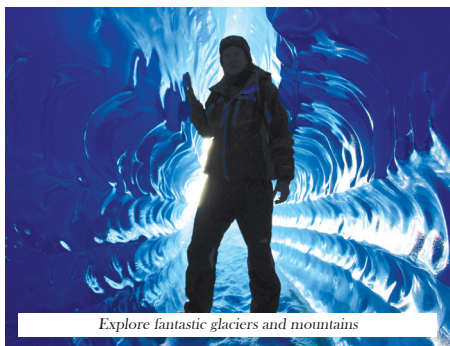
We have items tailor-made for music lovers, gastronomists, adventure seekers, intellectuals and travel experts and every one of these items has a unique element that has never been done before or cannot be found anywhere else!"

Top of the list that will delight guests who are looking for something out of the ordinary is a day trip to Antarctica, courtesy of the **Consular mission of Paraguay**, to experience the unique continent of pristine white snow, shining blue ice and the midnight sun.



Experience Antarctica

The highest bidder and his/her partner will depart from Cape Town on a **special flight over the Southern Ocean and touch down 5 ½ hours later on the blue ice runway in Antarctica.**



Explore fantastic glaciers and mountains

After a welcome drink they will explore the stunning sights with a guide in a specially-modified 4x4 vehicle to the nearby mountains, nunataks and glaciers. With luck they might even discover ice tunnels. At the end of this unforgettable day they will board the plane at 23:00 to fly back to Cape Town in time to see the African sunrise.

Also on offer is an extra-ordinary evening of nature and music never experienced before. The highest bidder will invite 30 of his/her friends to the **Aquarium at the V&A Waterfront for a 3-course dinner AND to enjoy a private concert by the world's best children's choir.**



Fine dining at the Two-Oceans Aquarium

And this is no idle claim - the Tygerberg Children's Choir was crowned World Champions in two categories, including best Children's Choir at this year's World Choir Games in Pretoria. "I am very excited about this item!" says Isabel. "They will perform in front of the big predator tanks and the combination of the almost hypnotic swimming of the fish with the children's heavenly voices will undoubtedly create a truly magical atmosphere!"

Another item that is expected to spark lively bidding is a dinner for a group of 5 friends with one of SA's **most loved and revered personalities – Prof Thuli Madonsela.**



Prof. Thuli Madonsela

During her years as SA's Public Protector she was named one of TIME's 100 most influential people in the world and Forbes Africa Person of the Year.

Nowadays she applies herself to shaping the minds of our youth as she lectures in law at Stellenbosch University. This is a unique opportunity for some guests to get to know the person behind the brilliant mind!

To celebrate the milestone of the 7th Consular Ball, the organisers have decided to bring back one unique item from each of the previous six years. On the menu for this year's auction is the item that excited guests at last year's Ball - 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 has a special offer for economy class passengers of one night free accommodation in a 4-star hotel in Istanbul. Business class passengers get two night's free accommodation in a 5-star hotel.



Turkish airlines

From Istanbul they will fly on 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 church in the middle of Lake Bled, Slovenia

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 1 000 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.

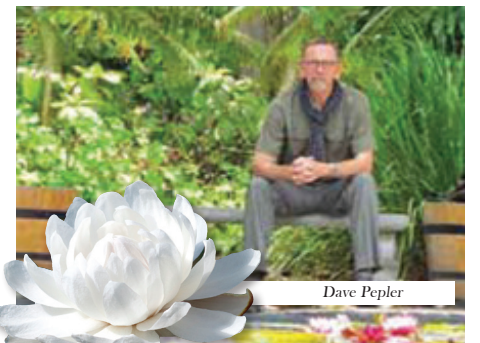
The most unconventional item of 2015 was an offer from a hospital to supply and install a sick bay in a school in a disadvantaged area.

This year **Netcare rose to the challenge and identified Leonsdale Primary school in Elsie's River as the**

school that will receive a sick bay from them. As part of the package they will paint the room, install furniture, provide all the necessary first aid equipment and also train two staff members in CPR.

The total cost will be around R20 000 and guests at the Ball will be able to bid on this item. The money raised will be donated to the Consular Ball and the highest bidder's name will appear on a plaque and will be invited to the opening of the sickbay.

Guests at the 2016 Consular Ball were enthralled by an auction item that promised an enchanted evening for 6 friends with wildlife celebrity **Dave Pepler in the Botanical Gardens in Stellenbosch.** It is the only place in South Africa where visitors can see the **Victoria water-lily, native to the shallow waters of the Amazon River.** The flowers open in the evening once a year and last for only three nights.



Dave Pepler

"This was one of the most incredible experiences of my life!" says Isabel. "It takes half an hour for the lilies to open and they exude an intoxicating scent so strong and lovely no one can ever forget it! The lucky winners of this auction item will have the chance to stand in the water, see the flowers opening before their eyes and experience one of nature's wonders for themselves."

And to make this experience even more magical, well-known chef, **Arno Janse from Janse & Co restaurant in Kloof Street will prepare and serve a truly authentic Asian meal on site.** He will use fresh ingredients from the Botanical Gardens that guests cannot experience without travelling halfway across the planet – tantalising tastes like makrut lime, fresh turmeric and galangal.

This year bidding will be open to anyone who is interested in any of the auction items, not only to guests attending the Consular Ball.

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