

Swiss Red Cross Gala



Joaquín Cortés



Professor René Rhinow

For the second time, the Swiss Red Cross welcomed some 250 guests at a gala event in the German speaking part of Switzerland. The Spanish star of contemporary flamenco Joaquín Cortés was the Guest Performer with his programme "Mi Soledad" ("My Solitude"), offering a journey to his most personal emotions.

Carriages took the marvelled guests through a torch lit alley to the Wenkenhof Manege in Riehen near Basle, its main sponsor was Bank Sarasin. A charity auction conducted masterly by Simon de Pury and a tombola contributed to raise some CHF 200'000 net profit in support of the Swiss Red Cross programs for Victims of Forgotten Disasters. Art collector Ernst Beyeler donated an original Juan Miró lithograph as the auction's main lot.

Van Cleef & Arpels donated another important lot, an exquisite "Fringes" necklace. Part of the auction was a special "appearance" by Sergio García, who came in on large screen to greet his fellow Spanish compatriots, Joaquín Cortés and the Spanish Ambassador, and offered his own personal Omega Double Eagle watch to the successful bidder.



Esme and Eric Sarasin - Main Sponsor - Bank Sarasin and Mary Hofstetter



Shaune Fielding



Carlos Leal with watch Omega and Simon de Pury



Rolando and Denise Benedick Vice Chairman and Sponsor - Manor



Trudi Götz

Swiss Red Cross Ball



H.R.H. Princess Ubolratana with Van Cleef & Arpels jewellery, Prof. René Rhinow, Mary Hofstetter



H.R.H. Princess Ubolratana, Stephen Urquhart & Bertrand Piccard



Prof. René Rhinow Président de la Croix-Rouge suisse, Vanessa-Mae



Miss Suisse Lauriane Gillieron on Harley-Davidson



Shania Twain wearing jewellery by Van Cleef & Arpels and Vivien Yakopin Tortora Brayda



Mr & Mrs Thomas Borer



Contesse Céla von Bismarck, Marietta Budiner Vice-Chairman du Bal

The fifth edition of the Swiss Red Cross Ball was dedicated to the relief programs for "Victims of Forgotten Disasters". With the proceeds of the Ball totalling CHF 700'000, programs of the Swiss Red Cross in Laos and Cambodia, Ecuador, Swaziland and Sudan as well as a Thai Red Cross project for an orphanage are supported.

Some 900 international guests attended the gala placed under the theme "La Nuit des Orchidées" and the Far East. The Honorary Patron of the Ball, Her Royal Highness Princess Ubolratana of Thailand was present at the Arena in Geneva, decorated with thousands of orchids generously sponsored by the Ambassador of Thailand to Switzerland. The Swiss Red Cross welcomed the star-violinist Vanessa-Mae as Guest Performer and the leading Thai fashion designer Pichita who presented her latest creations.

The Charity Auction conducted by Francois Curiel featured outstanding prizes such as a VIP trip to Beijing Olympics, offered by sponsor Omega.

The Swiss Red Cross Ball 2006 was extra-special because of various anniversaries: both the Swiss Red Cross and Hotel Beau-Rivage celebrated their 140th year of existence, Van Cleef & Arpels dated back exactly one century, Swiss -Thai relations existed for 75 years and, last but not least, it was the Ball's 5th edition.

The Swiss Red Cross Ball 2007 will take place at the CFF Halles in Morges on Saturday 9th June.

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Vanessa-Mae