

# *Celebrity leading stories of the month*

## **1<sup>st</sup> Russian Ball**

The '1st Russian Ball' was predicted to be one of the most outstanding evenings of the year, it was presented as being one of the most beautiful of events - and so it was. We were to witness a kaleidoscope of splendour, an immensity of enchantment and the opulence of a bygone era - to us fortunate guests, it surpassed all expectations.



The Ball flowed with the magical splendour of days long gone and one could have truly believed that this was held in the presence of the Great Russian Tsars. Certainly it attracted the islands most beautiful and talented people, the great hall of Nuevo Pueblo Espanola was graced with some of the most beautiful and amazing women of this island, and indeed of Russia. On Saturday the 17th of October, this was without doubt one of the main event of the Mallorca social calendar. The elegance and grandeur created an amazing pageant and the music of the Balearics Symphony Orchestra was superlative.

In this nine page special photographic feature, we hope to



convey just a little of the magic of this truly majestic evening. The great hall of Nuevo Pueblo Espanol was to be the most enchanting of locations, for what was to be an evening of glamour, of romance, with all the light heartedness and yet sophistication of a different era.

The evening commenced in the courtyard of the Plaza de Monardiz in Pueblo Espanol, the limousines and chauffeured cars purred to a halt, quietly delivering their clients to the amazing Puerto de Bisagra gate house, from where they traversed the red carpet and enjoyed Canapés and aperitif's. There was already a feeling of excitement, of grandeur, as three hundred and fifty guest, (with one hundred and fifty arriving from Russia), greeted old friends and made new acquaintances. Evening dresses glided across the stone cobbles and men wearing tuxedos and bow ties lit their cigars – this was never going to be an evening of ordinaire', here was the elite. The 'air-kissing' and handshakes were abundant, as was the amazing collection of jewellery and fabulous designer fashion gowns. This was Mallorca at its very best, ostentatious possibly, but this was the Russian Ball, and by the pure lavishness, it decreed such.

Eventually amongst the chinking of glasses, the bubbling of flowing champers, it was announced that guest should retire to the great hall, the ball was about to begin.

This hall (Congress Palace) is one of the few places in Mallorca that offers a huge function room,



yet one that keeps its intimacy and it's style in splendour.

The hall was set with circular tables, chairs and livery, all dressed in white. Catering staff stood at attention as guest made their way to their respective tables.

Jordi Cabrer, the Director of Tourism, made the welcoming speech and this was followed by organisers, Alexander and Elisabeth Smagin, who thanked the co-operation of Kuhn and Partners and the Venski Ball, Moscow, Russia.

As the excited chatter and movement slowly came to a silence, the Balearics Symphony Orchestra entered the stage, followed by their musical director of the evening, Felix P Korobov (Moscow Academic Music Theatre). Then to a huge round of applause the orchestra brought the hall to life. This most amazing orchestra filled the giant chamber with music, music that filled your heart and soul with appreciation. Suddenly you felt the presence of Johann Strauss, of Ludwig Van Beethoven, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and many of the other great musical composers – the music took us all to another time. As the music of the orchestra wove it's magical spell, huge doors swept open at the back of the hall and so began the parade of the thirty beautiful Russian debutants, dressed in an array of breathtaking white designer evening gowns. Their jewellery sparkled in the warm glow of the lights, their tiaras reflecting a dazzling flicker around the room. With the music now reaching a crescendo, the debutants, and their partners glided through the centre of the hall towards the

orchestra. Here the Master of Ceremonies, Stanislaw Popow, announced the evening programme, beginning with the debutants and their partners taking to the floor for the evening's first waltz.

It is difficult to recount the splendour, the magical atmosphere, the beauty of the pure visible presence of what we were enjoying – the evening had begun – the night was indeed special.

Then the Master of Ceremonies, paused the dancing to announce the presence of the 'First Prima Ballerina' of the Bolshoi Ballet, Moscow, Maria Alexandrova

She enthralled the guests with an exceptional and very rare solo performance. Guests were astounded that one of the worlds leading ballerina's was dancing before them just a few meter's from their tables.

Afterwards the orchestra was then joined by Dimitry Kortschak (Tenor), with Anna Aglatova (Soprano) from The Bolschoi Theatre, who stole the hearts of many guests with their renditions from Brindis de La Traviata, Puccini and Tchaikovsky.

In the shadows of the orchestra, you could have easily felt embarrassed to be enjoying the lavish dinner whilst they played such superb music, effectively being just background music to your culinary delights. The meal was superb, several starter courses, delicious fish course, followed by Quail and Pate, dessert, champagne and coffee, but there was still so much to come.

Later, to a huge round of applause from appreciative guests, General Manager Carlos Batista Almeida and Chef

Gustavo Ariel Peri headed the traditional parade of the catering and waiting staff

Next the Russian debutantes and their partners invited guests to join them on the dance floor where they were all taught the simple steps of several Russian dances.

This was followed by the Polka which brought merriment and humour into the evening - now the orchestra were lifting up the mood of the evening, suddenly the hall was full of laughter as all guests joined in the gayety of the dance.

It was like the Last Day of the Proms, as the music of Strauss and Glinka filled the hall – it was all here, and wouldn't these great composers have approved of this most auspicious and most glamorous gathering, enjoying the frivolity and humour of their music and dance. Suddenly the formality was gone, the beautiful people, who had earlier been so careful with their haute couture and designer fashions, now lifted their long gowns as they joined in the hilarity of dancing the Gallop and Polka, no care now for the expensive jewellery, no care for the immaculate coiffured hairstyles.

This was people at their best, guests from this island, the mainland, France and Russia joined in as one, no language was necessary here, just the love and fun of this night.

Later in the evening the mood changed with a superb brass swing and jazz band, the white suited musicians led the way with some amazing sounds and again the dancing continued. At one

stage the lead saxophonist moved around the tables where he played a haunting rendition Stranger's in the Night. At one o'clock there was a unique light show, the theme being the mystery of time, were a mysterious clock opened as an orb, a fascinating visual effect, amazing the guests.

Whilst all this continued, we privately joined many of the Russian Debutants and special guests from Moscow out side in the courtyard, for more of our own exclusive photographs.

All through the evening we had become friendly with many of the visiting Russians (discussing our several previous trips to the Kremlin, Moscow) and we found them to be warm and friendly

.  
But, as all enjoyable evenings, it must eventually come to an end, so just after three in the morning, saying our goodbyes to our new Russian friends, (exchanging more tales of our trips to Moscow), we sauntered down the great steps of Pueblo Espanol and looking back at this amazing building, we realised it was certainly a night to be remembered.