



# A Night of Happiness and 'Swissness'

The weather was perfect. The food was delicious. The music was wonderful. On Saturday 5 August, the night of the Club's Swiss National Day celebrations, the balmy evening air was charged with children's laughter, adult banter and the magnificent tenor voice of renowned opera singer Claudio Danuser.

## A SELLOUT SUCCESS

In the week leading up to the event, ticket sales went through the roof. "Last-minute sign-ups went crazy!" shared Paulina, the Club's Banqueting Manager. In fact, registrations had swelled from 300 to more than 450 party-goers. By 6pm, families, couples and groups of singles were pouring in.

## THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR

"The Swiss National Day event at the Swiss Club is one of the highlights, especially this year as we also celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations with Singapore," said the Ambassador. He also mentioned the excellent relations and strong cooperation between the two countries. "Singapore always

squirrel or lizard stirred in the jungle as Claudio's magnificent voice filled the air.



The Swiss Embassy kindly sponsored welcome drinks for all attendees. Other pleasant diversions included music from the brilliant Alphorn players, Urs Brüttsch and Andres Diriwachter, and a button badge-making workshop, sponsored by Swatch.

Next came a welcome address by our Deputy President René Cotting, and a speech by His Excellency Mr Thomas Kupfer, Ambassador of Switzerland to Singapore.

took Switzerland as a model in many areas," said His Excellency Ambassador Kupfer. "Obviously, today Singapore has achieved great progress and has reached similar levels to Switzerland in many areas, or even higher."

After the Ambassador's address, renowned Swiss singer Claudio Danuser took to the stage and performed a powerful and moving rendition of the Swiss national anthem. The rapt audience hung on every note, and not a



## FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

As always, Chef Adrian and the F&B team led by Aaron Lim, the Club's new F&B Operations Service Manager, laid out a sumptuous spread. The traditional raclette stations attracted short queues, as usual, and proved well worth the wait. Mountains of roast pork roulade, roast chicken, sausages, meatloaf, beef skewers, cold cuts and a decadent dessert buffet kept everyone satisfied. Throughout the evening, Carsten conducted a series of lucky draws during which guests won attractive prizes such as Swatch watches, LED-lit ice buckets and al fresco lighting. The dance floor was well patronised, and towards the end of the evening a bevy of pretty young mums and their little ones danced up a storm to the familiar and now-nostalgic strains of 'Gangnam Style'.



## LEAPING FLAMES AND SOARING SPIRITS

No Swiss National Day celebration would be complete without the traditional lampion parade and bonfire. At around 8.30pm, our General Manager Carsten called all the children up to the stage, and led a luminous procession to the bonfire in the car park. The little ones' eyes were filled with awe as the ancient tradition of lighting fires in elevated hills was continued, far from home but close in spirit.

All in all, it was a perfect night of moonlight and magic.



## The Other Celebration – The Berne Secondary School Reunion

Mr Claudio Danuser and his former classmates, from a public secondary school in Berne, decided to organise a school reunion in Singapore when they found out that he would perform in Singapore for the Swiss National Day at the Swiss Club. The venue was fixed when it was discovered that Singapore was the very country where another classmate, Gery Messer, had been living for 25 years. In fact, Gery is a longtime Swiss Club Member and married his Singaporean wife at the Club in 1999. "It was absolutely a happy coincidence," said Gery. From the smiles on the faces of these jovial gentlemen, it was an excellent decision. "We've been staying at The Guesthouse for 10 days," said Claudio. "The Swiss Club is the paradise of Singapore!"

## A Message from the President of the Swiss Confederation

The audience was enthralled by a stirring audio recording of the address by the President of the Swiss Confederation, Doris Leuthard, to the Swiss abroad. Here, we share some excerpts and highlights.

"Wherever you live, you take pride in our country... You are ambassadors for our country all year round, and not just on the first of August... Thanks to you, Switzerland has become almost borderless. The first of August has become an opportunity for us to celebrate Switzerland, our values and our successes. It is important to celebrate achievements, but at the same time, not everyone is so fortunate and it is our duty to take responsibility. We are in a period marked by conflict, much violence, and repositioning of countries such as China, the United States and the UK. During these times, Europe needs to pull together... Today, Switzerland is a rock of stability. Despite many uncertainties, we have been able to hold firm and maintain a good quality of life. However, our comfort zone has narrowed, for everything that happens in this world, whether a financial crisis, digitalisation, the effects of climate change, violence, war on terror, migration, the still huge divide between rich and poor nations, and technical progress... it all affects us in some way, wherever we live... History has taught us – better solutions tend to be reached by being open to new ideas... through cooperation, not confrontation. Ladies and gentlemen, let us take today's National Day celebrations as an opportunity to consider these values and apply them to our lives... Thank you for all that you do for Switzerland from a distance... Happy first of August!"