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PRESS RELEASE

I DEFEND GALA 2015
“ROBERT KENNEDY HUMAN RIGHT FOUNDATION”,
16TH JULY 2015
RIVA TUNNEL, PRINCIPALITY OF MONACO



Photo credit: Harry Benson
Bobby & Kerry, Snake River, 1966

A great success for **I Defend Gala 2015** organised in support of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Europe, which took place on July 16 in the heart of the Principality of Monaco. After an introduction by Lia Riva, host for the occasion in the magical atmosphere of Riva Tunnel of Montecarlo, to preside over the evening was the same Kerry Kennedy, daughter of Robert Kennedy and President of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights. Kerry was introduced by journalist and Master of Ceremonies Alan Friedman, before she thoroughly explained the reasons and objectives of the Foundation, to finally share with prestigious guests a video that brought her back to her childhood with her family, for an emotional speech and moment.





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The focus of the evening then moved on to a live auction that saw as a hitter **François Tajan**, Co-President of the famous auction house **Artcurial**, for proceeds of over 300 thousand euro reached between live auction and silent auction. A big hit of the night was a shot of the famous photographer Harry Benson, host of the evening with his camera, at the honorary table.

Also the most unique prize consists of the very first model of the new Fiat 500 Convertible, customized by the artisan Umbrian Stefano Conticelli and donated by the Fiat house in Turin, won by a US guest for 55 thousand euro with the motto "I have a dream". The artist and craftsman, invited on stage, presented his "creation" with a video screening of the making-of, claiming and supporting the excellence of Italian craftsmanship.



During the inaugural cocktail, the guests were graced with the presence of His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, the promoter of an eponymous foundation created to combat climate change. Following, was a majestic dinner organized by the team of chef Gualtiero Marchesi to delight the guests, with his famous gold and saffron risotto, his lobster with a cream of sweet peppers and his Italian meringue with red currant sauce accompanied by bubbly Veuve Cliquot Ponsardin, partner of the event with Moët Hennessy, and the wines of the Sardinian winery Pala.

The involvement of **Frank La Rue**, the most famous lawyers expert in human rights as well as director of European operations of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights, since 2008 in reporting directly to the United Nations about the protection of the rights of freedom of expression.

International press attendance were present, such as Vanity Fair, Le Figaro, Corriere della Sera, Four Magazine, for a high media impact supported by Radio Monte Carlo: the radio network partner of the evening with live speeches and interviews, with the voice of the speaker and cult, Maurizio di Maggio, to the chef Marchesi.



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The atmosphere “I Defend” has taken by storm the Principality even outside the same evening: thanks to Maserati, car sponsors of the event, which have coloured the streets in the name of the same motto.

But also the activities that took place the following day under the auspices of the Foundation and with the support of Lia Riva, with an exceptional tour for journalists and celebrities on board of Riva Venere. A morning culminated with the visit at the Aquarama Lounge of the Yacht Club of Monaco and lunch for 20 guests at the same venue. Thus ending a unique journey with a beautiful moment dedicated to unique principles: a moment designed to celebrate the unique value of ethics and human principles, uniting the beauty of what man, in the arts, he has been able to produce.



Press enquiries : press@the-style-lab.com

MONACO BOAT SERVICE - 8 Quai Antoine 1er , MC98000 Monaco – Tel. +377 93 10 53 33
www.riva-mbs.com