

The most beautiful party of the year

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By Tina Hidalgo Jacinto

The official Miss Universe after-party was one of the most highly anticipated events of the world-renowned beauty pageant, a glorious evening where the festivities were anything but ordinary. Hosted by Okada Manila, the bash was held at the cavernous geodesic glass dome, Cove Manila, Okada's premier entertainment space. The dome will be an indoor beach, one of the thrills of the 44-hectare resort, complete with fine white sand and lighting resembling the most desirable summer oasis.

This party mecca is nothing like Manila has ever seen, replete with the latest in audio, video, and lighting technologies and, on this night, 85 of the most beautiful women in the world mingled with local and international celebrities, VIPs and guests, while pulsing music courtesy of Amsterdam-based club music superstar Nicky Romero played the best in club music in sync with the strobe lights, laser lights, multi-media screens, and other state-of-the-art special effects.



Miss Universe Iris Mittenaere of France acknowledges the crowd at the Miss Universe after party held at the Cove of Okada.



Hosts Issa Litton, together with Rico Robles, started the program and introduced the newly crowned Miss Universe, Iris Mittenaere of France, followed by billionaire chairman Kazuo Okada who presented her with a bouquet of flowers. This was followed by a multi-media presentation of skilled dancers who were visually engulfed in a giant video of fire and other mesmerizing images. Like a scene from Cirque du Soleil, there were acrobats performing in four corners. There were video walls, fireworks, and confetti all night. A dancer was doing her thing inside a huge pool mimicking a glass bowl. There, too, was a bathtub show, where a dancer in a bikini of feathers and sequins poured Moët & Chandon all over her body.

Another first in Manila was the popping of a 30-liter bottle of the luxurious Armand de Brignac champagne. Bottles of champagne and other premium whiskeys were spiritedly brought out by bikini-clad ladies perched atop men's shoulders carrying torches and tambourines. Premium open bar was consumable of P100,000 for a table of P250,000. The upper level portion was the premium P500,000 per table of 10.

The after-party of Okada Manila was a fundraiser for their charities. Its involvement with social and community efforts is a big part of Okada's core values about giving back. Their theme was "Pass it Forward" and their beneficiary was the Purple Centers Foundation. The foundation provides funds and projects for children and families near the old Smokey Mountain.

Among the VIPs and celebrities seen were: Stella Marquez de Araneta, a former beauty queen herself with husband Jorge Araneta; former Ilocos Sur Gov. Chavit Singson, Ambassador Joey Antonio, French Ambassador Thierry Mathou and Mme. Cecilia Mathou, Panamanian Ambassador Rolando Alvarado and Mme. Kathya Alvarado, Mexican Ambassador Julio Camarena, Sebastian "Baste" Duterte, Tony Boy Cojuangco, former Miss Universe Pia Wurtzbach who came with Marlon Stockinger, Margie Moran Floirendo, Gloria Diaz, Nedy Tantoco, among others.

Amigo's top honcho Wopsy Zamora and party animal Agile Zamora said that everything was temporary and was all done for the one-night bash. Agile, still full of energy, stayed till closing time at four. "The Miss Universe after-party was the best party I've ever attended," said Agile. "Never was there a dull moment with all the beautiful people."