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Gifts and the gifted

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Princess Mathilde of Belgium looks striking, has a full smile and kind eyes. At the dinner hosted for Prince Philippe and her, she looked regal in a long red gown. The dinner started with a show featuring Anamika Khanna's clothes and those of a Belgium designer called Natan. The finale had a diamond *choll* worth a million Euros which was quite blinding in the blue light.



was to take sips and let your palette find the match between the cocktail and the food. The Gratin of lobster tail 'Thermidor style' flambéed in cognac, pommery essence accompanied with La Charentais (inspired by the Cognac region, mélange of Grey Goose L'Orange and Grand Marnier to compliment the delicate flavours of cognac flambé) was my favourite.

ALL THAT GLITTERS

Geraldine Langlois from Belgium showcased a B&W photo exhibition on Bollywood called 'The Essence of Indian Cinema'. She presented me the book that has must-see pictures. The dinner comprised of Belgian delegates who had accompanied the royal couple. Freddy Hanard, an ex-ABN AMRO banker sat next to me. He is now the CEO of the Antwerp World Diamond Centre. He told me how much he still loves his wife after almost 40 years.

Dimitri Lezinska, the ambassador of Grey Goose, and his new wife Reshma hosted a dinner. It was a five-course meal with cocktails. Each drink had natural flavours and the idea of the vodka-laced cocktails

YOUNG ASPIRATIONS

Child Line hosted a dinner with an exhibition. Directed at rehabilitation of street children, Child Line also functions in villages and convinces kids to not move to the cities. They had a display of art, jewellery, and home products donated by various people. Kabir Bedi was brilliant in an AV and Supreet Bedi was good as the master of ceremonies. I had run the Marathon in 2008 for this cause and was happy to watch this organisation continue doing great work.