

soho

CLARION



THE FREE MAGAZINE OF THE SOHO SOCIETY



SOHO has hosted an annual festival of some sorts since at the least the 1950s when Billy Butlin (yes, *that* Billy Butlin) was its patron, and this year's

Soho Festival proved to be one of the best ever. Despite the grey skies, more than a thousand people turned up for an amazing selection of talent, both local and international.

Whether you liked jazz, rock, blues, classical, cabaret or show-tunes there was music and entertainment for all the family. The old favourites such as the Alpine Horn and Spaghetti Eating Contests were still there, and, of course, the bar was drunk dry.

So a big thank you to everyone who gave their time freely ensuring the event was a success, and special thanks to our cover girl, the great Ruby Venezuela who put in so much time, talent and effort to make this year's show one of the best ever.

(To catch a brief clip of Ruby and Jeff Kristian at the Soho Festival go to <http://tinyurl.com/yezaeep/>)

Cover photo of Ruby Venezuela at the 2009 Soho Festival: Kaye De Ville

Nigol.

Our Soho girl in Morocco

Soho chef **MARTI MCKELLAR** has recently been cooking for the **British Ambassador in Morocco, no less. Here she remembers Ramadan and September in Rabat**

SEPTEMBER BRINGS brings Ramadan and a general slowing down of everything except the traffic and road rage on the way home for the first meal of the day.

Everyday tasks take a bizarre twist such as placing sprinklers next to the swimming pool rendering taking a "dip" akin to avoiding sniper fire.

The supermarkets are filled with pyramids of dates for breaking the fast and the alcohol shelves are positively ghostly as are the streets from sundown until

around 10pm when a carnival atmosphere ensues.

During the day a visit to Chellah, just outside Rabat, reveals Roman ruins and a pond full of crystal clear water where childless women come to feed boiled eggs to the grey eels in the hope that ancient magic will bless them with a son or daughter while above a host of storks rigid in their nests, stare regally into the horizon....

MARTI MCKELLAR



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The Soho Clarion is the free magazine of the Soho Society with a readership of 6,000

It is published four times a year and has an influential voice in the running and business of Soho

The Clarion is distributed to members of the Soho Society and to shops, restaurants, pubs, and businesses throughout Soho

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