

Miss and Mister Luxembourg finalists week in Djerba: Full report

23/11/2009, by Adam Walder



[List of the four Mister Luxembourg finalists 2010](#)

[List of the ten Miss Luxembourg finalists 2010](#)

The finalist for Miss and Mister Luxembourg spent last week on the Tunisian island of Djerba. News352 was there to follow them in both their training and during their time off.

After the candidates for both Miss and Mister Luxembourg had been whittled down to the finalists, 10 girls and 4 guys, they were whisked away last week for a complete week of fun and training to the Island of Djerba in Tunisia.

Several journalists from the Luxembourg press were invited including News352. We followed the progress of the finalists for the entire week, often taking part with them in events and organised trips.

“The week is of course a lot of fun but they have a lot of work to do and need to learn how to become kind of ambassadors for Luxembourg” stated Miss and Mister Luxembourg Committee President, Muriel Gilbert.

After the arrival at the 5 star hotel Royal Garden in Djerba and an impressive folkloric welcome by the staff with music and dance, the finalists were almost immediately put to work. A traditional Tunisian cooking lesson took place where they put to the test competing in teams against each other.

Also present for the entire week was choreographer Romain Philipp, head of the Luxembourg dance school Flashdance. His role, to train the finalists in posture and routine as well as helping with a talent “show” that each candidate must perform.

In one of the week’s first lessons, after the finalists were told to dance their own dances as though they were in a nightclub, Romain Philipp stated to them, “you need to sell yourselves. You need individuality and communication. A body is a method of communication. It’s like learning to play an instrument, you must learn to play the instrument of your body and it is with this communication that you will connect with people, or not connect with them”.

As the week went on it became apparent that the beauty part of the Miss and Mister Luxembourg only plays a part of the role. This was confirmed by Muriel Gilbert. “Personality and presence is extremely important and beautiful looks is only one aspect for a Miss or Mister. They need to know how to present themselves also have to be willing to take part in charity work and put something back into society”.

The week was not all hard work though, the finalists also had time to relax and enjoy themselves too. A trip to the Tunisian mainland was organised for one day, with visits to several landmarks, by bus and horse-drawn carriages.



However the week’s training programme was all leading up to the Thursday night when a fashion show took place, in the hotel performed by the finalists. For several of them, this was not just the first time they had performed in public, but actually their first venture into fashion and beauty events. To build the pressure still further, among the invited guests at the event was one of the heads of the Tunisian Tourist Board, the head of RIU hotels of which Royal Garden is part of, and a head of state for the Island of Djerba and in total there were approximately 500 spectators. The clothes shown were those of a local Tunisian designer, but the whole impressive event planning with music and clothes selection was the creation of Miss Luxembourg Committee Vice President Boubaker Almi.

The result was a thoroughly professional performance by all finalists and was impossible to see that some of them had never done this before. All of them proved talented and it was evident that when it comes to the final selection in December, it will be an extremely difficult decision.

“Luxembourg is known by the outside world for finance and administration; it needs something to show there’s more. A Miss and Mister Luxembourg will prove to be ambassadors for the country, especially when abroad”. Stated Muriel Gilbert, who went on to say “Last year’s Miss Luxembourg Diana Nilles really proved herself in her charity work with the Red Cross and was invited to many events over the year. We are looking for similar like-minded people”.

So what’s in store to the finalists now that they have returned to Luxembourg? Firstly they have more training with Romain Philipp at his dance school for two main areas: catwalk routines and the talent show performance that is part of the competition. Finalists will also have several events they will be attending. Another important part of the position of Miss or Mister Luxembourg is giving something back to society. Finalists will be required to support a, or several, local charities or organisations and support throughout their year’s reign. It is for them to decide who or what. But the most important event in their calendar is the election final for both Miss and Mister Luxembourg that takes place in Chateau d'Urspelt in Clervaux on 19th December.

All-in-all, the Miss and Mister competition has proved itself to go beyond the “beauty pageant” stereotype image it has been pigeon-holed into, and after 12 years of absence from the Miss World competition, the 2009 final with Diana Nilles, will place Luxembourg firmly back in the event. The 2010 finalists are ready to compete for next year’s title. All will be decided on 19th December.

To see a list of the ten Miss Luxembourg finalists [click here](#)

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