

THE LANGHAM

MELBOURNE



THE LANGHAM, MELBOURNE HOSTS WELCOME RECEPTION FOR ANDY MURRAY

Monday 16 January 2017..... To welcome the world's number one ranked tennis player, Andy Murray to Melbourne for the 2017 Australian Open, Ben Sington, Managing Director of The Langham, Melbourne hosted an intimate soirée for just 50 guests on the hotel's rooftop deck overlooking the city's skyline and the Yarra River on Thursday 12 January.

Andy Murray is an ambassador for UNICEF and four Melbourne-based beneficiaries of the charity were on hand to have an impromptu tennis game with the legendary tennis player. The Odicho family's children including sisters, Cristin (12), Cathrine (10) and their brother, Elias (10) fled Syria in 2014. They escaped to Lebanon where they were assisted by the United Nations. The trio were attending Thomastown Meadows Primary School and will now be students at William Ruthven Secondary College in Reservoir. Twelve year old Medina Sayer's older siblings were helped by UNICEF when her family was living in Afghanistan before settling into a new life in Melbourne.

In addition, Amor Jasika, (12), Australia's U12's champion whose parents resettled in Australia after fleeing the war in Bosnia was also in attendance to have an inspirational hit with one of his tennis idols, Andy Murray.

Invited guests included Melbourne Convention Bureau's Chief Executive Officer, Karen Bollinger, Lisa Roberts from Ultimate Conferencing and Events and Sarah Markey-Hamm from ICMS, all of whom who were able to personally meet Andy Murray.

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“What a spectacular start to 2017,” said Ben Sington, Managing Director of The Langham, Melbourne. “It has been my absolute honour and privilege to stage this relaxed event and help raise awareness for Andy Murray’s involvement with UNICEF,” added Sington.

The hotel’s pool-deck was transformed into a tennis arena for one night only and each guest was photographed with the newly knighted Andy Murray and feasted on tennis-inspired cocktails and canapés including tennis racket-shaped lamb cutlets, tennis ball arancini and bespoke handmade biscuits and a specially created cocktail called the World Number One made with Tanqueray gin, sour apple, lime juice, sugar syrup, honeyed apricot and smoked hickory bitters.

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For more information or to obtain images, please contact Tara Bishop, Public Relations Director on +61 422 003 549 or via email to tara.bishop@langhamhotels.com.



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Left to Right: Cathrine Odicho, Amor Jasika, Elias Odicho, Andy Murray, Medina Sayer and Cristin Odicho.

Background Notes

[The Langham, Melbourne](#) at Southbank is located at the heart of Melbourne's diverse performing arts scene, and is a proud partner of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, Melbourne Recital Centre, Melbourne Theatre Company, Opera Australia and the Melbourne International Jazz Festival.

The 25-floor hotel has 388 luxuriously appointed rooms including 126 river view rooms, 57 executive club rooms, 6 balcony rooms with 19m² private balconies, 7 Terrace rooms with 50m² private balconies, 11 suites and one Chairman Suite; each attended to by the hotel's signature Service Stylists. Boasting stunning views of the Melbourne city skyline, the Yarra River, historic Flinders Street station and Federation Square, The Langham, Melbourne offers a luxurious and timeless inner-city experience.

The Langham, Melbourne has been named the top city hotel in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific by *Travel & Leisure (US)* magazine (2016), named #2 in Top Ten list of hotels in Australia and New Zealand by the readers of *Conde Nast Traveler (U.S.)* in 2016 and has been a constant feature on *Travel + Leisure (US)* World's Best lists (2008 – 2016). The Langham, Melbourne is also actively retaining EarthCheck Gold Certification in 2017 and maintaining place as a leader in the unique worldwide group of sustainable tourism operators that are certified to the internationally recognised EarthCheck Company Standard with the exclusive EarthCheckTM.

The Langham, Melbourne is also acclaimed for its award-winning Chuan Spa, interactive dining restaurant – Melba, and chic bar & lounge – ARIA. Reservations may be made by visiting <http://melbourne.langhamhotels.com.au/melbourne/> or calling 1800 641 107.