

[NYTimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

October 24, 2012

15,610,342 Unique Visitors per Month

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/25/fashion/benefit-for-gabrielles-angel-foundation-scene-city.html?_r=0

The New York Times

Candidates and Baseball Come in Second



Erin Baiano for The New York Times

Kim Kardashian, with Kanye West, got a cake a day after her birthday. [More Photos »](#)

By BEE-SHYUAN CHANG

Published: October 24, 2012

YOU know the world has gone topsy-turvy when a single date with Kim Kardashian is valued at \$15,000, while a weeklong retreat in Palm Springs, Calif., as the guest of [Bill Clinton](#), including a tête-à-tête with him, goes for just \$25,000.



Slide Show

Scene City: Starry Night for Gabrielle's Angel Foundation

But such are the online charity lots for Gabrielle's Angel Foundation, which held its benefit ball at Cipriani Wall Street on Monday night. Its founder, Denise Rich, said the event raised \$3.7 million for leukemia, lymphoma and related cancer research.

The evening's host, Christina McLarty of "Entertainment Tonight," summed it up at the start of the dinner program.

"We have Kim and Kanye tonight," Ms. McLarty said, shortly after Ms. Kardashian and Kanye West slipped in and took their seats, causing photographer mayhem in their wake. "They aren't performing, but being here is enough."

Indeed, Kimye, as the couple is known, who were in prime spots at Table 40 along with Bar Refaeli and Solange Knowles, didn't do much besides show up.

"I don't do interviews," Mr. West said when approached by a reporter. And except for a few photo ops (Ms. Kardashian wore a long-sleeved cobalt-blue dress), they stayed in their seats behind five vases of roses and floral-printed tableware designed by Roberto Cavalli, even through performances by Natalie Cole and Smokey Robinson. (At one point, a birthday cake was brought to Ms. Kardashian, who turned 32 on Sunday.)

Their tablemates were considerably chattier. Between the burrata appetizer and steak entree, Ms. Refaeli hopped onstage to model a Lorraine Schwartz snake ring for the live auction, conducted by Simon de Pury. Ms. Knowles, who brought her mother, Tina, said she had yet to feel party fatigue in the thick of the fall gala season.

"I am tired from a three-day weekend birthday for my son — I had eight kids sleep over," said Ms. Knowles, who wore a plunging black-and-gold Badgley Mischka gown. "I was in sweats for three days just cooking, snacking, blowing up balloons. It's nice to get glammed up and feel like a woman again."

Fashion models and boldface names were there, including Russell Simmons, Star Jones, Clive Davis and Joan Collins, whose “Dynasty”-era big hair and gold sequins seemed frozen in time.

Over at Table 39, Nelly and Ashanti both wore head-to-toe black. For Nelly, the gala’s cause was a personal one.

“I lost both my grandfathers to cancer and I lost my sister to cancer,” he said.

It would otherwise have been a tough sell on this Monday night: there was football, baseball playoffs and the last presidential debate.

“I never watch the third and final debate,” Nelly said. “But if I wasn’t here, I would rather be watching the Cardinals versus the Giants game.”

Guests lingered past 10 p.m. and caught a surprise performance by Nelly, who riled things up with “Hot in Herre.”

“It’s about getting money for the cause,” he said, before closing with “Must Be the Money.”

Before the song ended, Kimye had slipped out.