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FRENCH PARTY.

More than two thousand elite come from all over Europe to the "Ball of the Century" held in the pine woods near Biarritz. Its just about the most lavish party ever held, but the Marquis de Suevas has only himself to blame - he's footing the bill. Although ballet dancer Zizi Jeanmaire seems to have the hump already, the tableaux are meant to be the highlights of the whole affair. Here's another lovely star-Marle Oberon.

Among the guests are 50 princes, 35 Marquises, 95 counts, 20 dukes and, to guard the family jewels, 60 detectives. Following Don Quixote comes, of course, Sancho Panza in the rotund shape of Elsa Maxwell, the famous American hostess.

No-one's allowed to remove their wigs despite the warm evenings, and now to hot things up even more, the dancing begins. Rumour has it that the party cost about £50,000. Was it worth it? The Marquis thinks so, and so does Biarritz. Its brought an overnight holiday boom.