**His Serene Highness Prince Albert II – BIOGRAPHY**

H.S.H. Prince Albert Alexandre Louis Pierre, Sovereign Prince of Monaco, was born in 1958. He is the son of Prince Rainier III (1923 -2005) and Princess Grace, formerly American actress Grace Kelly (1929 - 1982). He acceded to the throne on July 12, 2005.

In 1981, the Prince graduated from Amherst College MA and, in the following year, completed a military training period with the French Navy on board the helicopter carrier “Jeanne d’Arc.”

The Prince is highly active as an international statesman; as of today, close to 140 countries maintain diplomatic relations with the Principality of Monaco.

Since 2001, he has chaired the Mediterranean Science Commission (CIESM) which was created at the beginning of the century at the initiative of his great-great grandfather and pioneer of modern oceanography, Prince Albert I. CIESM is an intergovernmental body with 23 member states, 20 of which are located along the Mediterranean coast. Cooperating with 500 specialized institutes, its goals are to promote multilateral international research and facilitate the exchange of information.

In 2006, the Prince launched the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation, which is dedicated to combating climate change, preserving water and safeguarding biodiversity. Within Monaco, and under his leadership, the government has promoted the development of public transport, ecological vehicles and renewable energies. The Principality aims to be carbon neutral by 2050.

The Prince is committed to the ethical and transparent economic development of the Principality, and Monaco complies with all recognized international standards in these areas.

A sports advocate, the Prince is a former Olympian, having participated in five Winter Games in the bobsleigh competition, and serves as President of the Monaco Olympic Committee, member of the International Olympic Committee and Chairman of the IOC Sustainable and Legacy Commission.

For his accomplishments and engagement in the protection of our planet, Prince Albert II has received numerous distinctions from universities and international organizations around the world.

In 2011, Prince Albert II married Ms. Charlene Wittstock, a South African national. In December 2014, H.S.H. Princess Charlene gave birth to twins, Crown Prince Jacques and Princess Gabriella.

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