

A fitting tribute to a great leader

Every moment of life in the UAE is a commemoration of the lofty vision and commendable leadership of HH the Late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, founder and father of the United Arab Emirates. His profound faith and deep commitment to tolerance, peace and progress was legendary and the present day UAE, where so many nationalities live and work together in harmony and peace, is the most visible statement of his philosophy. His visionary thinking and tireless endeavors to actualize his dreams have not only turned a desert land into a teeming oasis of greenery and prosperity but also transformed a young nation into a nerve center of the Middle East enjoying the strongest bonds with every other country in the world.

Quite appropriately this year's edition of Salon des Grandes Complications has chosen to highlight the special relationship between Sheikh Zayed and Switzerland by way of a retrospective that features images of the great leader and his family in Switzerland while on official and non-official visits. These images that have never been displayed before are being made accessible to the public, courtesy of the National Archives and Ministry of Presidential Affairs in Abu Dhabi. The exhibition will be open at Salon des Grandes Complications at ADNEC, Abu Dhabi from 25th to 29th October where SDGC will showcase the finest examples of Swiss watchmaking under the support of the Embassy of Switzerland in the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. The organizers express their sincere gratitude to the National Archives and Ministry of Presidential Affairs for their goodwill and valuable support.

Now in its 7th successful edition, the SDGC is the oldest and most prestigious Grandes Complications Horlogerie Exhibition in the Middle East showcasing world famous brands that represent the ultimate in the art of fine watchmaking. It offers a unique two-way opportunity for the region's connoisseurs and collectors to come closer to classic masterpieces in timekeeping as it provides Europe's most renowned master craftsmen and *maisons* a forum to interact with the most discerning high net-worth individuals on this side of the globe.

SDGC 2018 Abu Dhabi edition is brought to you in partnership with Bentley Motors. Matching the prestige and exclusivity of the premium Grandes Complications Horlogerie Exhibition in the Middle East, Bentley Motors will be making its emphatic presence at this year's Salon des Grandes Complications Abu Dhabi. Bentley is synonymous with the finest luxury performance cars in the world and will be celebrating its centenary year in 2019. Founded by Walter Owen Bentley in 1919 "To build a fast car, a good car, and the best in its class." The company continues to be 'endowed with tradition and inspired by the future'. True to its timeless heritage Bentley offers, in addition to its prized range of premium cars, a specialized collection of men's accessories and, over and above these, a selection of the most exquisite horological masterpieces.

The SDGC 2018 is proud to be held under the support of the Embassy of Switzerland in the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.