

# Double take on luxury driving...

## ● Rolls-Royce 'Ghost' superb



■ The Ghost at the Euro Motors showroom

THE new luxury Rolls-Royce model, the Ghost, with a starting price of more than BD100,000, was yesterday unveiled in Bahrain.

It will be available in Bahrain and the rest of the GCC early next year, said Rolls-Royce Middle East regional director Peter Schoppmann.

He was speaking during a launch ceremony at Rolls-Royce dealers Euro Motors, Sitra.

Since we first announced that work had begun on a new model series in 2006, anticipation has been building, he said.

The feedback so far shows that the Ghost has surpassed all expectations.

Mr Schoppmann, based in Dubai, said that the Ghost was attracting new buyers to the brand, who appreciate its fusion of timeless elegance, new technology and contemporary style.

He said that the Ghost embodied the core values of Rolls-Royce and delivered contemporary, effortless refinement.

While less formal than the Phantom family, the Ghost retains the essence of Rolls-Royce, and is engineered to be more driver-focused and powerful than any Rolls-Royce before it, said Mr Schoppmann.

He said that a brand new 6.6 litre twin-turbo V12 engine, unique to the model, delivers a feeling of endless, surging power to the driver.



■ Mr Al Zayani behind the wheel of the Ghost



■ Mr Schoppmann

He said that the Rolls-Royce design team sought inspiration in architecture and yachts when seeking a modern interpretation of Rolls-Royce's values.

As a result, Ghost's flowing lines are dominated by its majestic yacht line styling, said the visiting official.

Large, uninterrupted sur-

faces flow between finely sculpted horizontal lines to create a powerful, defined exterior.

Euro Motors managing director Zayed Alzayani said that the initial response to the Ghost had been overwhelming.

He said that the Ghost would appear every day from today at Jewellery Arabia 2009 at the Bahrain International Exhibition Centre, Sanabis.

Mr Alzayani said that the car's introduction to the Bahrain market would underline Euro Motors' impressive development.

The Ghost embodies the 21st century Rolls-Royce; a sleek, modern expression of over 100 years of engineering and design excellence.

## ● New Bentley the best ever



■ The Bentley Continental Supersports readies for 'take-off' at the BIC

ALMOST a year ago, when I first drove three popular Bentley models, including the Continental GT Speed, on the Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) track, I was promised something more – and soon.

Bentley dealers Ahmed Zayani and Sons yesterday delivered on their promise with the 2010 Bentley Continental Supersports during a Bentley Drive event. It is the fastest, most powerful Bentley ever to come my way – and the way it literally took off left me with no time to catch my breath.

After all, 0-100 km/h in 3.9 seconds and a 329 km/h top speed is not something to joke about.

Well, though I attained a top speed of around 220 km/h, it was still too much for me to even look out of the window and see the towers of the BIC zip past!

The Supersports comes with equipment one would never expect to see in a Bentley – like racing bucket seats and carbon-ceramic brakes.

And not only does it weigh 110kg less than the Continental GT Speed, it is also faster and more focused than its older cousin.

It does not seem quite as fast as a car as it is but once behind the wheel, and after just one gratuitous stomp of the right foot, you realise that you could care less what's around you –

the take-off is so quick and smooth that it leaves onlookers gaping!

I was told part of that speed comes from a blisteringly fast six-speed transmission.

The automatic gearbox clicks off shifts in half the time of the unit found in the Continental GT Speed, and that translates into a flood of power.

Putting all the hand-hewn grunt to the pavement is a seamless all-wheel-drive system with a 40:60 front-to-rear torque bias. As impressive as the drive train is, it pales in comparison to its ceramic rotors the size of a large party platter and eight-piston calipers to virtually pull your eyeballs from their sockets the second you step on the brake pedal.

And as impressive as the straight-line take-offs are, Bentley's work on the car's suspension is absolutely remarkable.

Body roll is all but nonexistent, and the massive Pirelli tyres refuse to give up their grip on the road, even in the face of all the power on tap.

All in all, the Supersports is still very much a Bentley, so there is a comfort setting for the car's magnetic ride suspension that really softens things up for a ride downtown or to the mall.

As the dealers' automotive division general manager Jeffrey Barrett said, the Supersports began as an under the radar project exploring the possibilities of weight reduction on the Continental GT but with more power and torque. A great car and an even greater feel to drive the legend – available at prices starting from BD110,000.



■ At the event are, Ahmed Zayani after sales manager Salim Mulla, left, brand manager S A Amodi, second left; director Nasser Al Zayani, fourth left, Bentley Asia and Middle East regional director Geoff Downing, fifth left, Ahmed Zayani director Riyadh Ahmed Al Zayani, fourth right, Bentley Middle East, Africa and India regional director Chris Buxton, third right, and Mr Barrett second right, with other officials