

The National

For the fashionable falcon, gem-studded hoods

Vesela Todorova

Last Updated: September 18. 2010 10:25PM UAE / September 18. 2010 6:25PM GMT



Rashid Mohamad al Jafra's falcon wears one of the diamond-studded hoods, created by Italian company Tiroler Goldschmied. Each of the five pieces, decorated with the precious stones, took a month to make. [Courtesy of Manuela Prossliner](#)

ABU DHABI // If the UAE's discerning falconers are prepared to spend thousands of dirhams on an elite bird, why not spend a few thousand more on a diamond-studded falcon hood?

This is the thinking of Italian jewellery design company Tiroler Goldschmied, which is showcasing five pieces at this year's Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition (Adihex).

From this Wednesday to Saturday at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, 200 exhibitors will offer a line-up of hunting rifles, miniature firearms, spear-fishing equipment, exotic holidays, as well as pedigree camels and hounds. The World Arabian Horse Racing Conference will also be held during the event.

With 40,000 square metres of display space rented, this is the largest exhibition yet in its eight-year history, Abdullah al Qubaisi, the event director, said.

"We are expecting more than 100,000 visitors across all age groups and nationalities to visit the exhibition and witness the various elements that are integral to the UAE's deep-rooted traditions," said Mr al Qubaisi, who is also director of communications at the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture & Heritage, which oversees the show.

Few of the visitors will be able to afford Tiroler Goldschmied's bejewelled hoods, which range from €5,000 (Dh24,000) to €40,000, depending on the number of diamonds used and time spent

to craft them. Still, the company's marketing and press manager, Manuela Gampe, is convinced that the hoods' Middle East debut will be successful.