**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Qatar – Unique Destination, Unique Clocks**

L’Epée 1839 is launching a new collection of three unique clocks at the Doha Watches and Jewellery Show 2017. Three clocks, three different housings.

The Qatar Collection is as unique as the country itself. Qatar collection is inspired by the great wish to create unique timepieces for unique figures. L’Epée 1839 has recently created some collections that prove they do like to toe the line. In their kinetic sculpture, there is clearly no space and no interest in object for the common man to own. They are giving the experienced aficionados of the world a way out – clearly something not all, but many consciously or subconsciously have been looking for.

Qatar clock sits among the clocks designed to stay timeless. Each one has its own personality and yet they all have in common the quest of being among the best. Each one has its Tourbillon escapement set on top of the movement. The regulator is the key part of the watch… it controls the full gear chain and delivers the exact quantity of energy to the gear train below, allowing it to keep track of time. The Tourbillon escapement is a high precision regulator, one of the most complicated functions usually only available on the most exclusive wristwatch. And in its execution it is as big as a full watch-movement…

The Qatar clock is the clock of the powerful. Besides being a L’Epée 1839 clock which is known as the clock of the influential and powerful, the clock itself is set as Royal court. Its regulator, which has deliberately been placed on top for all to admire, controls, as a king, the powers of all … and so, controls the precision of the clock's time.

When conceiving the Qatar clock, the team set out a new reference in clock design movement. CEO Arnaud Nicolas says: “The idea of manufacturing a clock in the shape of the Qatar country came to me whilst I was visiting the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, Qatar. The richness of the astronomical instruments shown in the museum is unbelievable. Knowing that the astrolabe is a very ancient astronomical computer for solving problems relating to time and the position of the Sun and stars in the sky - [**Typical uses**](http://www.astrolabes.org/pages/uses.htm) of the astrolabe include finding the time during the day or night, finding the time of a celestial event such as sunrise or sunset and as a handy reference of celestial positions. Our Qatar clocks have been designed, engineered and manufactured in celebration of and recognition of these late works that were so well captured in the museum.”

**THE HOUSINGS:**

L’Epée 1839, well known for its superlative fine finishing table clock execution and for the ultra-exclusive personalization, has jumped once again on a new challenge: making 3 exclusive clocks for the Qatar. The Housing is in fact not one but three housings bearing three different philosophies:

First, The **Qatar Insignia** (ref. 61.6850/011) is a completely open clock. It features four gold-plated solid brass columns supporting the capital. The clock design is inspired from the old monuments. The columns, an important symbol in all cultures, have many meanings: they are the symbol of victory and the sacred; they represent the axis, the support and the verticality; they also refer to stability and duration. Moreover, in ancient Egypt, the Djed pillar associated with the cult of Ptah (the god of artisans and architects) and Osiris (god inventor of agriculture and religion) symbolized the columns supporting heaven. The columns are also an important symbol in architecture. For centuries, the architects distinguished the divine mansions from those of the comman man by the use of the column. Thus, the column has become a symbol of power. Indeed, it is on the column that rests the edifice, whether it is the royal palace or the temple. And so, a series of columns holding a capital; all made for the presentation of the centerpiece. Here the distinctive movement in the shape of the country.

Second, the Qatar By Eduard Indermaur (Ref. 61.6850/021) is an exclusive solid brass clock in an extremely luxurious limited edition. The clock is hand-made in L’Epée manufacture and decorated by the Swiss artist glass-maker Eduard Indermaur. The deep-stained glass panels are signed and numbered by the artist. The Scenery call “Summer” is in fact a reinterpretation of the desert Oasis. Red, white and green are the most noticeable colors of the painting. Besides being very poetic, they are also three important symbols in the Islamic culture. The green color, which symbolizes life and nature, is most strongly associated with Islam as it has represented Islam for centuries. Some believe that green was the Prophet Muhammad's favorite color, and it is mentioned in a number of verses in the Quran as the color that will be worn by the inhabitants of paradise. White is perhaps the second-most associated color with Islam. The color white, besides often being worn by Muslims attending Friday prayers, symbolizes purity and peace. Although red is often also associated with Islam, it does not have any particular religious significance. Red references blood in its many meanings.  Blood is the life force – the Divine gift given us by the Creator:  to generate life, live to produce and create, and finally surrender our life to the One Who gave it.

The movement of this clock is placed in the center of a stained glass environment supported by a fully gold-plated carriage clock style housing. An inspired blend of modern and traditional design.

Third but not least, the Qatar Discovery (ref. 61.6850/031) represents the giant traditional carriage clock of L’Epée 1839 for which L’Epée was well known for over 175 year. The housing is composed of mineral glass, a door on the back and on the front allows the owner to access the Qatar movement and its beautiful sound. In this configuration the movement is emphasised by the reflection in the top and bottom polished surfaces. Each see-through glass allows the owner to look at the movement from every sense. Nothing is hidden. The Tourbillon and its movement can be fully seen at every angle.

With this collection, L’Epée 1839 has created a classical universe, distinguished and symbolizing power for each clock in this very spectacular collection.

**THE MOVEMENT**

These three timepieces feature the same innovative movement with a new Tourbillon for which L’Epée 1839 is well known. The movement bears two important complications, which are also symbols within the L’Epée 1839 history.

The main plates, surrounding the mechanical system of the strike and hour/minute display, represent the Qatar map. The gold-plated plates reflect the beauty of the strike setting mechanism on the front of the clock, especially the rack, behind the two black lacquered hands, that trigger the entire process until the final gong on the hour and every ½ hour. Up on the clock, the Tourbillon can be admired through a special opening. The shape of this opening clearly reminds you of the fascinating curves of the Islamic architecture, and more accurately the cupolas surmounting the domed mosques. Set between the main plates the great waltz of the wheels can be admired.

Each component of the movement is machined and superlatively finished during the manufacture in Switzerland.

**The tourbillon:** Considered to be one of the three finest horological complications, the Tourbillon is placed at the very top of the structure in these unique clocks, for all to admire. Its dimensions are such that the beholder is quickly captivated by the majestic waltz of the balance wheel. The design of the bridge supporting the carriage is a new design made especially on demand. Entirely produced in the L’Epée workshops, it is made of gold-plated brass with a flawless finish.

**Hours and ½hours Strike:** While a wristwatch can only accommodate small gongs, this Qatar Collection strikes every hour and ½ hours on a long black gong visible on the back of the clock, that strives for a rich and convincing sound. When it is one O’clock, the clock will strike once, at Two, twice, etc, until noon and its twelve gongs. In the afternoon, it will start again with one gong. The initiation of the mechanism is placed on the front of the clock, next to the hour-wheel so the entire strike-process can be admired.

Entirely made and conceived in Switzerland, at the L’Epée manufacture, the full process is mastered to perfectly reflect the beauty of the mechanism.

**Qatar clocks: Technical Specifications**

**Display**

Hours and Minutes: black skeleton hands on the center of the clock

Front plate: Strike system with gong and mechanically activated every 30 minutes.

Functions

 Hours and Minutes

Tourbillon

Strike: Hours and half

**Main structure**

Qatar Insignia Ref. 61.6850/011

Qatar By Eduard Indermaur Ref 61.6850/021

Qatar Discovery Ref. 61.6850/031

**Dimensions**

Qatar Insignia 188 x 243 x 97 mm

Qatar By Eduard Indermaur 173 x 255 x153 mm

Qatar Discovery 173 x 255 x153 mm

**Movement**

L’EPÉE in-house designed and manufactured movement – Caliber 1880 T.

Balance frequency: 18,000 vph / 2.5Hz

Power reserve: 8 days

Jewels: 14

Incabloc shock protection system

Manual-winding: Double-ended key to set time and wind movement

Materials and finishing: Massive gold-plated Brass

Time setting: On the back of the clock with a unique gold-plated L’Epée key

The two main plates supporting the entire in-house movement are in the shape of Qatar.

**L’EPEE 1839 – the premier clock manufacture in Switzerland**

For over 175 years, L'Epée has been at the forefront of watch and clock making. Today, it is the only specialised manufacture in Switzerland dedicated to making high-end clocks. L'Epée was founded in 1839, initially to make music box and watch components, by Auguste L’Epée who set up the business near Besançon, France. The L’Epée hallmark was that all parts were made entirely by hand.

From 1850 onwards, the manufacture became a leading light in the production of ‘platform’ escapements, creating regulators especially for alarm clocks, table clocks and musical watches. By 1877, it was making 24,000 platform escapements annually. The manufacture became a well-known specialist owning a large number of patents on special escapements such as anti-knocking, auto-starting and constant-force escapements and the chief supplier of escapements to several celebrated watchmakers of the day. L'Epée has won a number of gold awards at International Exhibitions.

During the 20th century, L'Epée owed much of its reputation to its superlative carriage clocks and, for many, L'Epée was the clock of the influential and powerful; it was also the gift of choice by French government officials to elite guests. In 1976 when the Concorde supersonic aircraft entered commercial service, L'Epée wall clocks were chosen to furnish the cabins, providing passengers with visual feedback of the time. In 1994, L'Epée showed its thirst for a challenge when it built the world's biggest clock with compensated pendulum, the Giant Regulator. At 2.2m high, it weighs 1.2 tons – the mechanical movement alone weighs 120kg – and required 2,800 man-hours of work.

L'Epée is now based in Delémont in the Swiss Jura Mountains. Under the guidance of CEO Arnaud Nicolas, L’Epée 1839 has developed an exceptional table clock collection, encompassing a range of sophisticated classic Carriage Clocks, Contemporary Design Clocks (Le Duel, La Tour,…) and avant-garde horological sculptures (Sherman, Starfleet Machine, Arachnophobia…). This last collection, named the “Art line” collection, was launched for its 175th Anniversary, is intended to shock, evoke and inspire people, not to toe the line. L’Epée clocks feature complications including retrograde seconds, power reserve indicators, perpetual calendars, tourbillons and striking mechanisms – all designed and manufactured in-house. Ultra-long power reserves have become a signature of the brand as well as superlative fine finishing