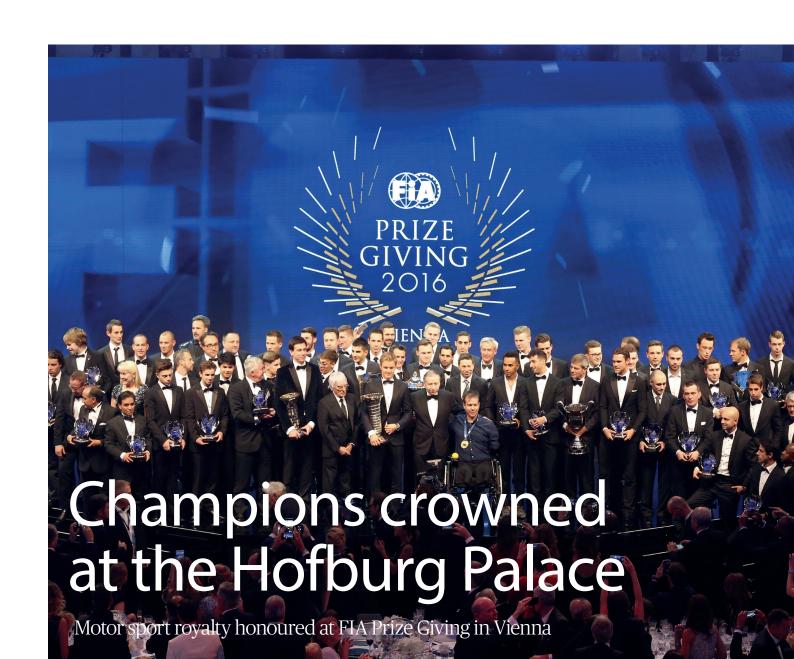


AUTO-PRIZE GIVING





Kings and Queen of motor sport awarded

After a thrilling season of motor sport action across all disciplines and at all levels, the FIA last night honoured its championship-winning stars at a glittering Prize Giving ceremony in the gilded surrounds of the Hofburg Palace.

The former residence of the monarchs of the Habsburg dynasty provided a fitting setting for an evening during which motor sport's elite were rewarded for their superlative efforts over the past year.

Highlight of the show was the presentation of the FIA Formula One World Drivers' Championship Trophy to Nico Rosberg. An emotional moment resonated even more in light of the German's earlier announcement that, having achieved his dream of winning the title, he is stepping back from F1 with immediate effect.

In rallying, Sébastien Ogier's fourth consecutive FIA World Rally Championship title – scored in partnership with co-driver Julien Ingrassia – ties the Frenchman at joint second in the list of multiple title winners alongside Juha Kankkunen and Tommi Makinen.

The evening also saw the crowning of new FIA World Endurance champions Neel Jani, Marc Lieb and Romain Dumas, first-time FIA World Rallycross Champion Mattias Ekström and Formula E titlewinner Sébastien Buemi.

The ceremony also saw the presentation of a number of special FIA awards. F1's Max Verstappen won the Personality of the Year and Action of the Year for the second time in a row, while FIA European Rallycross Champion Kevin Hansen won Rookie of the Year. A new prize, the President's Award, was handed to Frédéric Sausset, the quadruple amputee who raced a specially-adapted LMP2 car at this year's Le Mans 24 Hour race.







THE ATMOSPHERE





THE SHOW





