

| HOROLOGY SPECIAL BY THE EDGE |

CALIBRE

JULY 22 | 2024



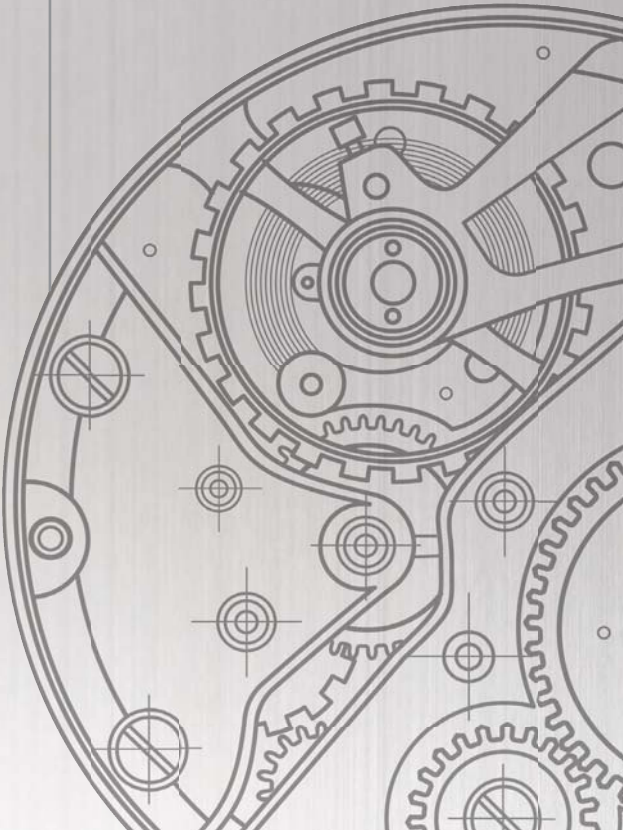




SANTOS
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Cartier

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EDITOR’S NOTE

In the past few years since the pandemic, Watches and Wonders (W&W) has consistently convened in late March, preceding the Easter holiday. The sheer volume of appointments, interviews and Touch & Feel sessions expected at the world’s premier watch exhibition is unsurprising.

However, the introduction of public programmes throughout Geneva presented an additional challenge for journalists, who were compelled to divide their time and venture into the city’s historic district to chronicle the success of these new initiatives. Some embraced this opportunity to explore the displays of the numerous independent brands positioned outside the main venue, while others sought a brief respite.

Ironically, the preferred sanctuary for many writers proved to be the Läderach chocolatier, conveniently located near Rue du Rhône, the heart of Geneva’s watch boutiques. It is, of course, well known that Switzerland produces some of the world’s most exquisite chocolates. As we browsed guiltlessly at the selection of Easter eggs and bunnies, sampling a few along the way, we found ourselves comparing them with the previous year’s offerings, inevitably concluding that the creations were better than.

This sentiment resonates with the reception of the novelties presented at W&W this year. While it is admittedly not their best outing, “wow” factor should not be the sole criterion for success. The timepieces continue to embody prestige and exemplify the pinnacle of haute horology, as evidenced by the detailed reports within this issue of *Calibre*. We delve into the strategies employed by esteemed watchmakers to bolster their core collections and revitalise iconic designs. Additionally, this edition features interviews with leading industry figures and exclusive access to two prominent manufactures nestled within the Jura Mountains.

With Easter falling earlier and the convention being held later, the customary seasonal chocolates were absent this time around. On a brighter note, this allowed assistant editor Kong Wai Yeng and me to arrive in Geneva at the peak of spring. We were welcomed with swathes of poppies and tulips that had shot up valiantly and showed off their hues. These blooms echoed the tones of our new *Options* tote bags – meticulously designed by the one and only Cassey Gan – which garnered a fair share of compliments throughout the event.

From our perspective, the industry remains on a positive trajectory, provided there is no regression. We have also observed a growing preference for specific dial colours and case sizes. Moreover, the realms of haute couture and jewellery have been prominently re-evaluated, as explored in detail within the following pages. We invite you to delve into this year’s *Calibre* with pleasure. Take your time. There’s plenty of it.



Emily Yap
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A NEW RHYTHM

Cogs finally turning after subdued kick-off to 2024 season

BY EMILY YAP

In the past few years, Watches and Wonders Geneva (W&W) has clocked up burgeoning numbers at a consistent pace. In early April, the 2024 edition hit new attendance records with more than 49,000 unique visitors – a 14% increase over 2023 – over the week.

The Palexpo convention centre was lined with a grand total of 54 participating brands, with the likes of supermodel Gisele Bündchen, Thai actor Apo Nattawin and football superstar Kylian Mbappé swanning in to support their favourite maisons IWC Schaffhausen, Piaget and Hublot respectively.

Building on the success of last year's public programmes, a myriad of activities, including product presentations, guided tours and workshops, were fully booked even before opening day. Of the 19,000 tickets, 25% were snapped up by a younger demographic with an average age of 35, solidifying the prominence – and influence – of a new generation of customers once again. Business reached new heights, with

more than 10,000 retailer appointments and 1,800 Touch & Feel sessions as well as a significant increase in orders placed by clients.

The reported figures are impressive, but do they mirror the experience on the ground? Combing through 54 brands in a couple of days was no mean feat, but if you knew there were wonders and marvels waiting right next door, you would hardly need convincing to pick up the pace. Unfortunately, that was not entirely the case.

Excited and animated conversations are often observed at every table during lunch break, but this year it was mostly an occasional shrug of the shoulder.

Save for a handful of ingenious mechanisms, brands looked inward to strengthen and expand core collections with iterations and revisitations. The bulk of this year's novelties leaned towards the conservative, focusing on tweaks in colour, proportions and material. Even though the move may not elicit a sensational response, these changes – some consequential – may prove beneficial in the long run.

But let us talk about the stars that caught our eye.


The Eternal Calendar by IWC Schaffhausen is a jaw-dropping secular calendar that has the ability to account for three leap-year exceptions in the next 400 years and accurately depict the waning and waxing of the moon for 45 million years. The numbers are out of this world and worth studying on Page 38. Its chief marketing officer Franziska Gsell talks about how the Portugieser model portrays the “essence of timelessness”, also embodied in a special music score written for the brand by legendary composer Hans Zimmer and scientist Brian Cox. Discover other pieces of insightful information about this year's novelties directly from the top brass of Bell & Ross, Roger Dubuis, Bvlgari and Grand Seiko on Page 44.

It would be a crime to turn a blind eye to the independent watchmakers, for the craziest ideas come alive within their labs. MB&F's LM Sequential Flyback features two independent, yet integrated, chronographs that can run separately, simultaneously or have their

CONTINUES ON PAGE 8

Pandas are also found in Switzerland.



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FROM PAGE 6

functions inverted in an instant. There is a Twinverter pusher operating as a binary switch that controls the flyback function of the two chronographs. The ingenious idea is courtesy of watchmaker extraordinaire and one of the original MB&F Friends, Stephen McDonnell. Find out how he conceptualised it on Page 48.

World time watches were always plagued by the perennial problem of not being able to include a date indicator without the user adjusting both the time zone and date independently. The Patek Philippe World Time Reference 5330G-001 solves this issue with a new calibre featuring a central differential system that manages both functions at the same time. We cover the technicalities on Page 50.

Prominent trends were few and far between, but we did notice an uptick in baby blue and viridescent hues, many of which are even more noteworthy after dark, thanks to a series of innovative lume technologies. Gone are the days when the big tickers were marketed to men and the small timepieces to women. Stalwarts such as Hermès and Omega are doling out unisex options that will look good on any and every wrist.

This year, it was apparent that many manufactures doubled down on their métiers d'art to push the boundaries of watchmaking, engineering and decorative art. Turn to Page 62 to see how Ulysse Nardin harnessed the age-old technique of guilloché on its latest Freak S Nomad. Then, the exceptional hand-engraving, enamelling and marquetry work on Louis Vuitton's Escale Cabinet of Wonders can be admired on Page 46.

Extraordinary timekeeping objects (Page 52) were presented by Van Cleef & Arpels and Urwerk, but Chanel's Musical Clock Couture Workshop deserves special mention. This year, the French luxury house paid tribute to the paraphernalia found in a seamstress' atelier with the Couture O'Clock capsule collection.

The convergence of haute couture, horlogerie and joaillerie is perhaps the hottest topic of late. Yes, Bvlgari and Piaget broke records this year for the world's thinnest watch and tourbillon respectively, but when W&W announced that Chanel, Hermès and LVMH were joining founding members Rolex, Richemont and Patek Philippe on the Watches and Wonders Geneva Foundation Board, it meant next year's salon would greater see whether the integration of new players will bring about significant and meaningful change.

Meanwhile, horology's biggest conglomerates are also making some serious business moves. Hot off the press: LVMH is shaking up its watch division as part of an "elevating and upgrading" strategy. Tag Heuer's chief Julien Tornare will succeed Ricardo Guadalupe as CEO of Hublot, effective Sept 1. After a 20-year tenure advancing the Art of Fusion, the affable Guadalupe will be taking up an honorary role as president.



The 2024 edition hit new attendance records with more than 49,000 unique visitors



A grand total of 54 maisons exhibited at the fair this year

Antoine Pin, the general manager of Bvlgari watches, will replace Tornare. With rumours swirling about Rolex planning to cede the Formula 1 sponsorship to LVMH, Tag Heuer may very well be the next official timekeeper for the world's biggest motorsport race.

This change comes hot on the heels of another C-suite reshuffle at Richemont a few weeks prior. Van Cleef & Arpels CEO Nicolas Bos is being promoted to head honcho of the entire group. Succeeding him is Catherine Rénier, current head of Jaeger-LeCoultre, and chief finance officer Philippe Hermann will temporarily fill her spot.

The industry is most interested, however, in the new keeper of Cartier, the jewel in Richemont's crown. After nine years, the brand's long-standing CEO Cyrille Vigneron is stepping down and will be replaced by Louis Ferla, current CEO of Vacheron Constantin. Ferla has incredibly big shoes to fill, as Vigneron saw to the expansion of the company's high-end watchmaking sector during his tenure, which skyrocketed the brand to No 2, just behind Rolex, on the list of most successful Swiss watchmakers in 2023, according to a report drawn up by Morgan Stanley and LuxeConsult. To ease Ferla

into the role, Vigneron will take on the position of chairman of Cartier culture and philanthropy.

Ferla's competence can be reflected, however, in Vacheron Constantin's resurrection and steady growth over the years. A master of métiers d'art with a rich history, the watchmaker has recently been on a roll in producing some of horology's most prestigious pieces (see Page 66). Though not expounded within our pages, the Berkley Grand Complication takes the crown this year for the most complicated watch ever with a whopping 63 horological complications and 2,877 components.

With the major rejigs, it will be exciting to observe the gradual shifts that will soon take place. To add more intrigue to the situation, LVMH CEO and chairman Bernard Arnault has reportedly acquired a small personal stake in Richemont, raising questions about possible consolidations.

The future is uncertain, but one thing we know for sure is that the fruits of Vigneron's labour in Cartier's watchmaking division are in good hands. A visit to the manufacture showed that a solid foundation has been laid for its success. The same can be said of Tudor's relatively new industrial facility in the Jura Mountains (Page 32). Fully dedicated to assembly operations and testing, the stronghold is home to a skilled team of 150, who, with the help of robotics, deliver more than 700 references sold in 80 countries.

Despite a rather quiet start in April, things are finally getting interesting. If you ever find yourself in the cradle of Swiss watchmaking during these times, our guide on Page 60 will lead you right to the scenes where horology's most authoritative boffins gather. The tides have turned since we crossed the mid-year mark and we can rest assured that the best is yet to come.

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True blue

The hottest hue on the heat colour scale is also one of 2024’s coolest trends, as can be seen in these azure timepieces

BY GENIE LEONG



Long a muse of poets, musicians and artists, the moon is often regarded as an icon of power and femininity. A glittering motif of the celestial body is the central focus of the Perpetual Moon 38 “Night Tide” by **Arnold & Son**. It looms over waves, made of mother-of-pearl and ruthenium. Five marquise diamond hour markers imitate stars in the sky, while 80 more brilliant-cut gems adorn the bezel. The manually wound A&S1612 movement inside offers an impressive 90-hour power reserve.



In fashion, jelly shoes are having a moment in the sun. Similarly, that clear crystal-like look is the star factor in **Hublot**’s Big Bang MP-11. With a seven-barrel movement and an impressive two-week power reserve, this timepiece is more than just a sporty looker. Beyond the pale blue case and rubber straps, the enduring movement surpasses all conventions with the use of a complex 270-component system. The watch is also water-resistant up to 30m, befitting its colour.



Great things can come in small packages, and the dainty Code 11.59 by **Audemars Piguet** is proof of that. Measuring 38mm, the 18-carat pink gold case has a double glare-proof sapphire crystal and caseback. The hour markers and hands in the same metal don a luminescent coating. The light blue dial and inner bezel add to the watch’s soft and sophisticated aesthetic, and are paired with an alligator strap in matching pearly tone with large square-scale embossing.



Originally designed as a pilot’s tool, the **Breitling** Navitimer has evolved into a versatile instrument meant to accompany any horology enthusiast on their journeys. The new Automatic GMT 41 revises the first look, removing the chronograph while maintaining a balanced watch face with an alternating polished and brushed finish. Inside the stainless steel case lies the Breitling 32 calibre, a self-winding mechanical movement with dual time zones. A dark blue alligator strap with folding clasp buckle completes this fine voyager’s piece.



A stainless steel make and contrasting dial pairing is a tried and true formula for a sophisticated look, and **Maurice Lacroix**’s Colours Edition Aikon Quartz with its sky blue face is a flawless example of this. Brushed and polished, the 40mm case’s six “claw” design on the bezel is a tiny but much-appreciated detail, supplemented by an anti-reflective sapphire crystal and screwed crown. The date is displayed in an aperture at 3 o’clock, while rhodium-plated hands coated with white Super-LumiNova ensure easy time telling day or night.



It is hard to beat the beauty of the blue horizon on a clear sunny day. **Norqain** channels the natural spectacle in this version of the Freedom 60 Chronograph. The stainless steel bracelet and case have a vintage influence, complementing the sunray-finish dial. The outer ring shows a navy and white tachymeter scale, matching the counters at 3, 6 and 9 o’clock. Diamond-cut indices and hands with Super-LumiNova enhance its looks and practicality. Set with 27 rubies, the Calibre N19 keeps things ticking.

ULYSSE NARDIN



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Sparkle + shine

Practical and glamorous jewellery timepieces let you have the best of both worlds

BY GENIE LEONG



Part of the Couture O’Clock series inspired by Gabrielle Chanel and the talented seamstresses of 21 rue Cambon, the **Chanel Bobbin Cuff Couture** is a one-of-a-kind showstopper demonstrating the links between horology and fashion. Emulating a whimsical spool of thread, the bangle-style piece is made from 18-carat gold and set with row upon row of diamonds imitating the neat lines of freshly spun string. A large yellow emerald-cut sapphire flips open on a hinge like a locket to reveal a glorious pavé dial with a pair of delicate gold hands underneath.



Legend has it that the sun and moon pine after each other like forbidden lovers, meeting briefly only at dusk and dawn. The Lady Jour Nuit by **Van Cleef & Arpels** paints this mesmerising picture on its Murano aventurine glass dial that mimics the starry night sky. A diamond-set moon and guilloché yellow gold sun peek out from the horizon. Wear this poetic moment, cocooned in a rhodium-plated 18-carat white gold case, on a bracelet encrusted with round diamonds or a leather strap of your choice.



If there was an award for the most extravagant timepiece produced this year, **Piaget** would have to be the champ. In celebration of the brand’s 150th anniversary, a trio of sautoirs made their debut at Watches and Wonders 2024. The most elaborate of them comprises peacock-toned turquoise and malachite beads intermixed with diamonds and yellow sapphires. The pendant dial, which can be detached and worn on a satin strap, is connected to the necklace by a sparkling 6.11-carat aquamarine and 29.24-carat yellow sapphire.



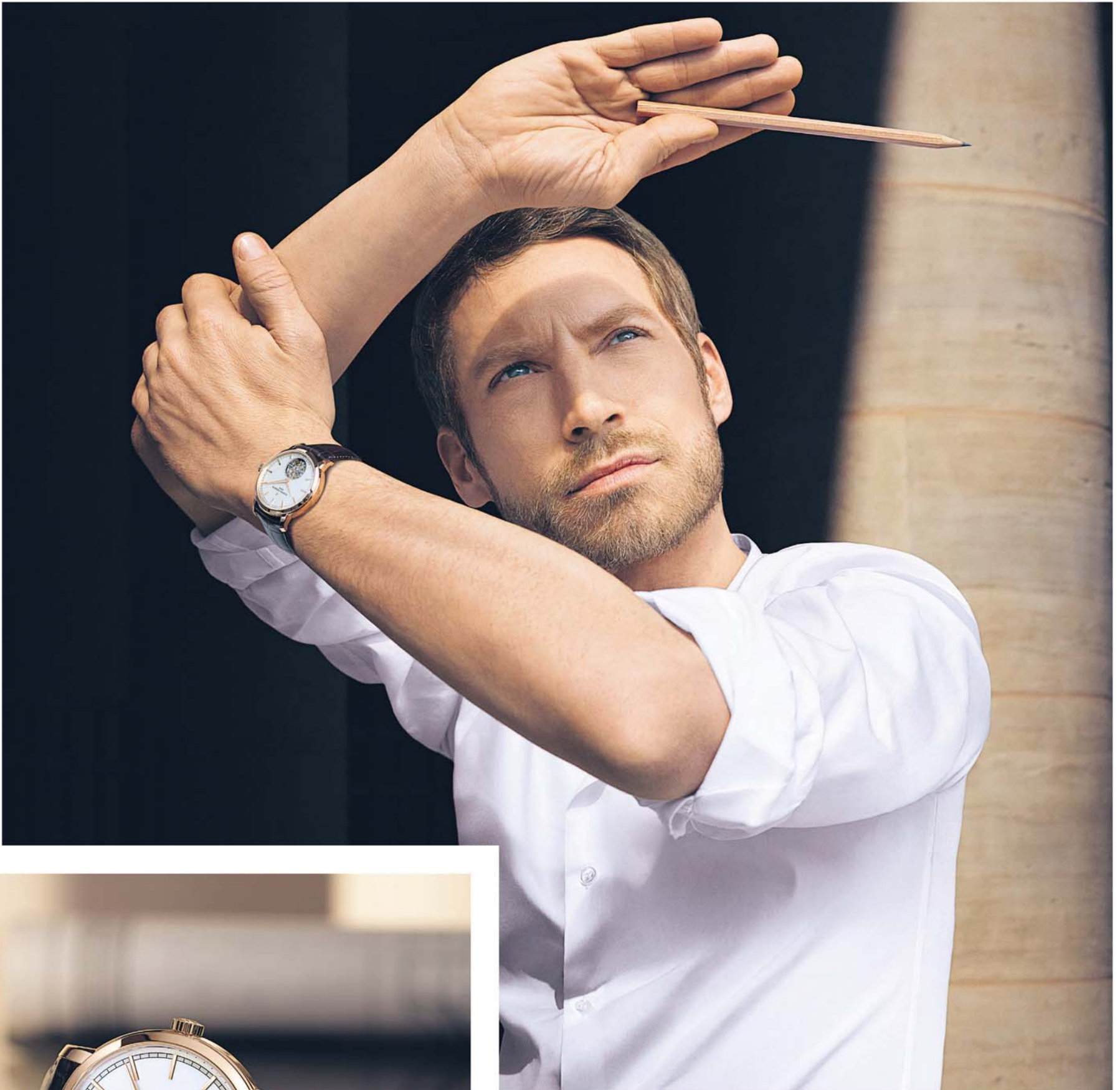
A line-up of the year’s finest jewellery watches would not be complete without **Vacheron Constantin’s** Grand Lady Kalla. The ultimate combination between bijouterie and horology, it is the heir to two of the house’s icons — the 1979 Kallista and the original 1980 Kalla. This dazzling creation can be worn multiple ways and easily transitions between modes without need for tools. Don it on the wrist with a diamond bracelet, around the neck on a rope of onyx beads and Akoya pearls, or as a pendant brooch.



Bvlgari’s Serpenti Tubogas timepiece that wraps around the wrist is among the house’s most iconic releases. This year, the revered brand has collaborated with Japanese architect Tadao Ando to produce a limited-edition collection of the reptile-shaped watches celebrating the fleeting four seasons. Naturally, the first to be unveiled is *natsu* (meaning “summer” in Japanese), featuring verdant green aventurine as an ode to sun-drenched forests. The vibrant emerald tones on the snakehead dial pop against the yellow gold and steel bracelet.



Maximalism may be all the rage right now, but there is beauty in simplicity too. **Patek Philippe** agrees as the Golden Ellipse takes on a sleek and modern look this year. A sunburst effect adds intrigue to the black dial, enhanced by baton hour markers and slender cheveu-style hands. The crown on the case is set with an onyx cabochon to match. The bracelet is, however, the crowning glory — a fully polished rose gold chain pieced together from 363 individual components, finished with an engraved foldover clasp.



"BEAUTY LIES IN THE DETAILS OF
THE GRANDEST STRUCTURES,
AND THE FINEST."

ORAÏTO,
CREATOR OF SHAPES, WEARS THE
VACHERON CONSTANTIN TRADITIONNELLE.


VACHERON CONSTANTIN | ONE OF
GENÈVE NOT MANY.

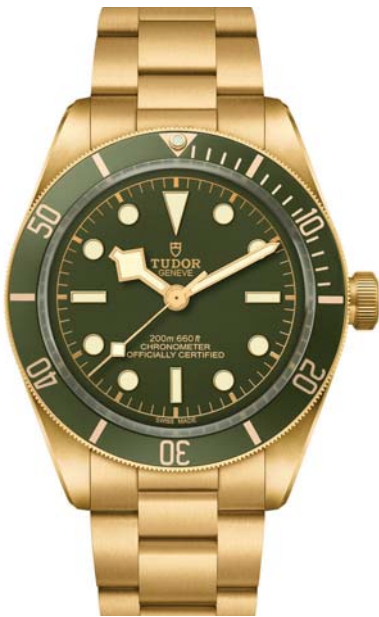
Verdant visions

From soft mint to vivid lime, these timepieces will have others green with envy

BY LEE CHARMYNN



Roger Dubuis’ latest Excalibur Spider Flyback Chronograph encapsulates the DNA of the SC63, Lamborghini Squadra Corse’s first hybrid racing car prototype that recently took part in the Le Mans Daytona Hybrid series. A Y-shape bar on the dial, illuminated in Super-LumiNova, mirrors the headlights of the car while the rotor in the back, shaped with five arms, mimics the rims. The Hyper Horology design is decked in Lamborghini’s motorsport department’s iconic Verde Mantis colour, a signature hue since the marque began its racing journey more than a decade ago.



The Tudor Black Bay 58 strikes gold with a vintage-looking number adorned with a warm green dial. This is the first diver’s watch from the manufacture to be made in 18-carat solid yellow gold, entirely satin-finished for a matte effect, which excites a more subdued aesthetic for wearers who want a subtle flex. An open caseback reveals the COSC-certified Calibre MT5400, boasting 70-hour power reserve. So, even if you want to wear something different on the weekend, you won’t have to reset it Monday morning.



The El Primero A386 would have brought a timepiece with a triple calendar, moonphase and chronograph to the watch world if it had debuted in 1969. But that remained a shelved idea, existing only in 25 prototypes, as another chronograph took off in popularity. The Zenith Chronomaster Original Triple Calendar is built off the blueprints of those 25 pieces, maintaining core design sensibilities but upgraded with the high-frequency El Primero 3610 automatic movement starring the one-tenth of a second chronograph function. The 38mm Boutique Edition boasts a sunburst olive-green dial with matching calfskin strap.



Having served the ladies with watches of pure feminine charm, Breguet keeps its prestigious reputation as the creator of the first wristwatch with the latest iteration of the Reine de Naples 8918. Released in conjunction with International Women’s Day — and fittingly so — this bedazzled beauty sports a mint green alligator strap, a mother-of-pearl dial and an impressive 117 diamonds on the bezel and flange. Contrasting shades of green on the Arabic numerals give them added dimension, making the watch a classy addition to your evening dress.



The heat in the air signals the coming of summer, and H Moser & Cie’s Pioneer Centre Seconds Concept Citrus Green packs a refreshing punch of colour that is bound to turn heads. A first for the brand’s sporty watch line, the lime-green fumé dial is devoid of indices or logos, save for the leaf-shaped hands filled with Super-LumiNova. The photo-luminescent pigment is also used along the inner flange, creating a ring of light in the dark.



Built as a no-nonsense diving companion, the Oris Aquis Date Calibre 400 can and will follow you to the deepest depths. The 30 bar water resistance is sure to please enthusiasts and the timepiece has been improved upon in small yet impactful ways — notice the repositioned bezel, ergonomic lugs and redesigned crown guards. The 43.5mm watch gives wearers the choice between a matching rubber strap and steel bracelet, equipped with a patented quick-change function for easy adjustment.

IWC PORTUGIESE CHRONOGRAPH.



Portugieser Chronograph, Ref. IW371624

Conceived 85 years ago as an instrument watch with marine chronometer precision, the Portugieser is a timeless yet dynamic paragon of understated elegance. And now, for the first time, the Chronograph, with its distinctive, vertically organised totalizers for optimum legibility, features an elaborately crafted dial in the colour Dune.

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Lume large

From the aesthetically illuminated to the practical and phosphorescent, wear the glow of innovation with these stellar pieces

BY QUINCY TAN



Celebrating the Datograph’s 25th anniversary, **A Lange & Söhne’s** Datograph Perpetual Tourbillon is presented in the German maison’s patented 18-carat Honeygold treatment and as a “Lumen” version for the first time. Encapsulated within the warm golden lustre of its 41.5mm case, every key element and complication of this arresting piece — the date display, subdials, tachymeter scale, moonphase and hands — glows in green sophistication under a smoky sapphire crystal dial. This monumental watch is limited to 50 units only.



On the off chance that the sheer size of the **Panerai** Submersible Elux Lab-ID (49mm by 21.9mm) fails to grab your attention, its striking luminescence certainly will. Within this statement piece beats an incredibly sophisticated heart: the P.9010/EL calibre not only has a power reserve of three days but also a light reserve that keeps the ticker glowing for 30 minutes. The latter works by way of a micro-generator that converts mechanical energy to electricity and channels it to the host of LED-like mechanisms on the indices, hands and bezel, creating a vivid contrast against the black dial.



With the Northern Lights being extra visible this year, the release of the **Bremont Bamford** Aurora — inspired by the captivating photic phenomenon — was only natural. A limited version of the Supermarine, this matte black 43mm GMT diver features a sandwich California dial with recessed neon green Super-LumiNova treatment, reflected also in its glowing hands, GMT tip and two-toned bezel with day and night indication. Driven by a modified calibre 11½in BE-93-2AV with chronometer movement, this striking timepiece packs all the luminous brilliance of the aurora borealis on the wrist.



Eyebrows were raised and eyes squinted when Lewis Hamilton was spotted with a new **IWC Schaffhausen** on his wrist at the Monaco Grand Prix. It turns out it was a prototype that incorporated the manufacture’s new Ceralume technology, a patent-pending material that fuses ceramic powders and Super-LumiNova pigments. Applied to the Pilot’s Watch Chronograph 41 design and paired with a white luminescent dial and strap, the ceramic case can maintain its blueish gleam for up to 24 hours.



Montblanc’s 1858 Geosphere CARBO2 O Oxygen Limited Edition is made to withstand ascent but it certainly climbs horological heights as well. The innovative material used in the 43.5mm case is made by capturing CO2 from biogas production and mineral waste. Come nightfall, the world time complications at 12 and 6 o’clock — in addition to the Mont Blanc alps motif on the left side of the case — emit a soft blue glow, guiding you through the darkest nocturnal adventures.



An exceptionally sleek piece by **Laurent Ferrier**, the Classic Moon Blue marks the debut of the independent brand’s first moonphase. The eye glides along the opaline grey-blue dial before settling on the aventurine glass subdial at 6 o’clock, where a translucent blue enamel disc takes part in displaying the waxing and waning of the moon. The celestial motifs on the disc are engraved and filled with Super-LumiNova, which further imbues the watch with stellar charm.

MB&F

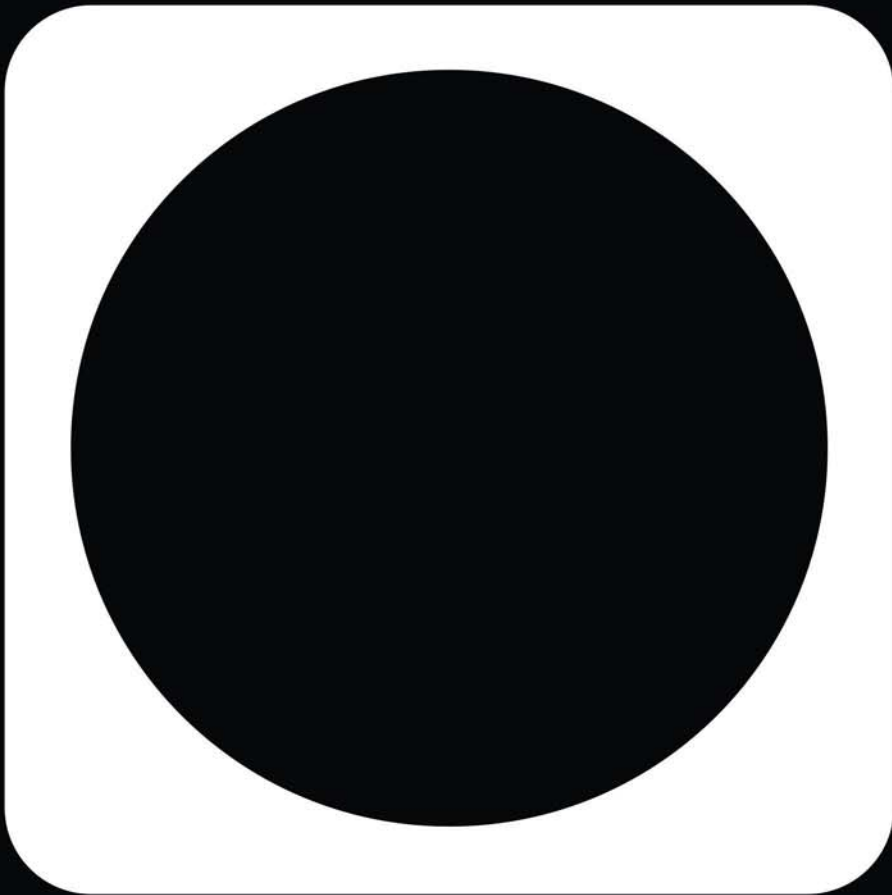
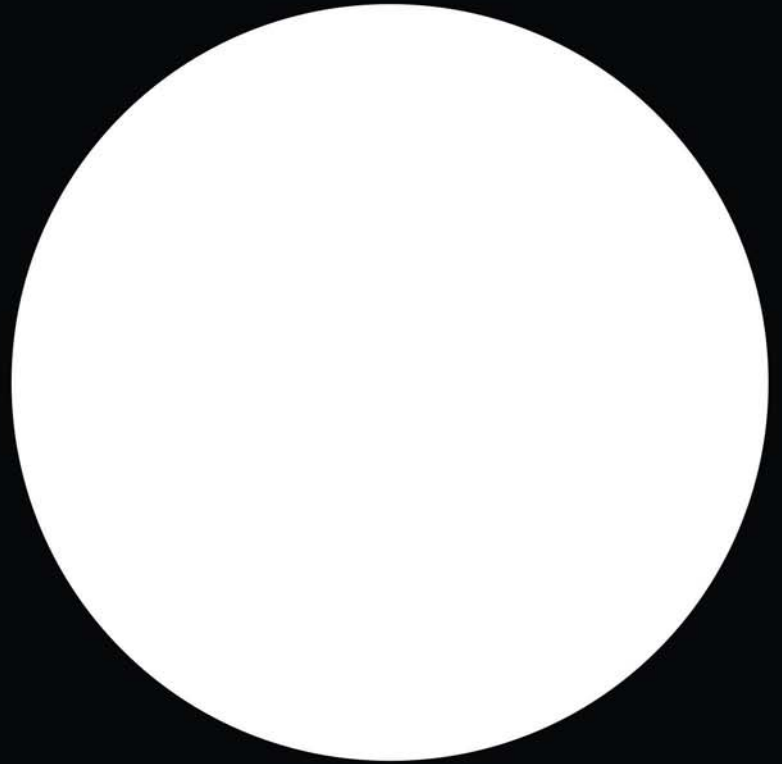
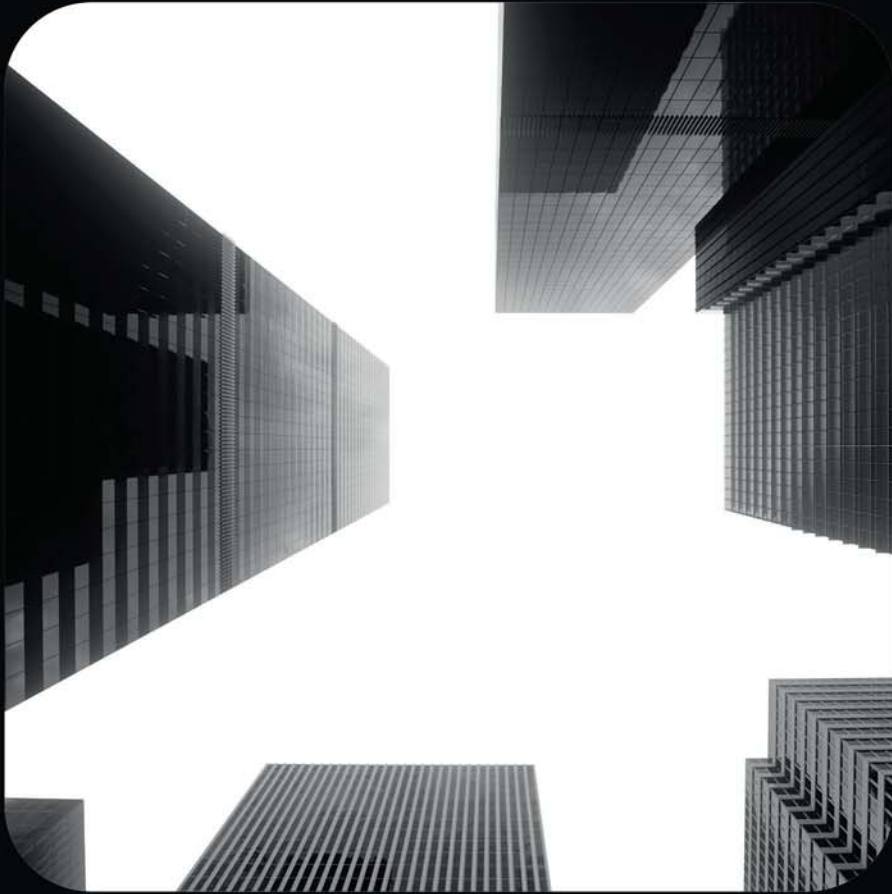
HM8 MARK 2

Supercar-inspired drivers' watch
in titanium and sapphire crystal,
body panels in CarbonMacrolon
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Bell & Ross

Ball

The watchmaker inspired by railroad accuracy not only stays on track with precise engineering but also reaches for the moon in dark times



Roadmaster M Perseverer

BY KONG WAI YENG

Genius in the realm of horology often means a knack for being acutely precise and faultless. So, the idea of an accident involving a watch may seem anathema. Yet, the infamous Great Kipton Train Wreck near Ohio, US, in 1891 reminds us that even in the most tragic moments, chance can lead to unforeseen breakthroughs and serve as a formidable muse.

The Ball watch company was founded as a result of a catastrophe. A train engineer's inaccurate watch, which stopped for four minutes, led to a head-on train collision in Kipton that claimed eight lives. Soon after, American railroad companies enlisted Cleveland watchmaker Webster Clay Ball — the first jeweller to use time signals from the United States Naval Observatory to bring accurate time to Cleveland — as chief inspector to oversee chronometric precision standards for all watches used by employees.

An American icon, the railroad helped unify the country in a web of steel. Prior to the development of the automobile, the locomotive's whistle that echoed

throughout the hills and fields symbolised unfettered freedom of movement as well as a smaller, less isolated world. It was, therefore, even more paramount for Ball to ensure strict rules were upheld across 75% of railroads, or 175,000 miles of track, in the country to establish uniformity in timekeeping. The standards were exacting, so much so that it inspired the *Contrôle Officiel Suisse des Chronomètres* (COSC) certification to govern the consistency of Swiss watches.

Today, all of Ball's luxury pieces are built in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, strengthening its long-standing devotion to quality even under adverse conditions. Testament to this philosophy is the Roadmaster series, dedicated to those in charge of guiding railroad infrastructure. Combining unique materials, robust resistance and distinct designs, the tool watch is guided by the brand's signature micro gas tube luminosity.

The latest addition to the Roadmaster is the M Perseverer, inspired by Henry Ford, the iconic American industrialist who revolutionised the automobile industry. Ford, like the early railroad workers who relied on Ball watches, fostered the



consumer economy with affordable cars as a means of pushing out the contours of cities, thus opening up new forms of housing and leisure. He, too, forged his destiny on the road less travelled.

The case of the M Perseverer comes in 40mm and a commanding 43mm, sculpted from 904L stainless steel. This is not your ordinary steel, though; the 904L

boasts superior corrosion-resistance, even in harsh environments such as salty sea air or sweaty adventures. Its tougher composition makes it more impervious to scratches and dents, maintaining a pristine appearance even after years of rugged use. This robust shell houses the beating heart of the watch, the in-house Ball Manufacture Calibre RRM7309-C with a COSC-certified chronometer that promises exceptional precision and accuracy between -2 and +4 seconds per day.

Beyond mere precision, the movement boasts an impressive 80-hour power reserve, which means you can take off the watch for a long weekend and it will still be ready and waiting on Monday morning. Decorations such as ribbing, perlage and spiral patterns showcase the meticulous attention to detail that Ball pours into each timepiece.

One of the brightest highlights of the M Perseverer is also its remarkable luminosity. Eschewing traditional painted luminescent compounds, Ball employs a technology that incorporates hermetically sealed micro gas tubes filled with tritium. These



Roadmaster Pilot GMT

tiny glass tubes, shaping the hour markers and hands, emit a constant, self-powered glow without relying on any external charging. This means effortless readability at a glance whether you are stepping out of a lit room or exploring a cave.

An extra hand

When you are on the go, the need to be strategic and purposeful in packing lends a special kind of clarity. But what you choose to bring should be tuned to the frequency of your destination. Luggage may be lost and phones could die, but a reliable GMT watch will always ensure you are on time for the adventure and do not lose track of home while seeing the rest of the world. It captures the essence of our era — one of endless horizons and interconnected lives.

Picking up the rhythm of a new locale should be seamless with the Roadmaster Pilot GMT, equipped with two remarkable timekeeping functions. When travelling, simply push the quick-set buttons to jump the local 12-hour hand to its desired position without stopping the second hand. Then, turn the crown to move the date correctly into position,

eliminating the need to circle the dial with the hour hand. Furthermore, the date will automatically be advanced when the local 12-hour hand is moved past midnight with the quick-set push buttons. Therefore, manually adjusting the date using the crown is necessary only for months with fewer than 31 days or when the local 12-hour is moved backwards.

Bear in mind, however, that this is no ordinary GMT. Its dial is made from Gibeon meteorite, believed to have separated from a large asteroid after an explosion. Transforming on its journey through space, and arriving at Earth around 600 million years ago, the fallen crystal structure is studded with a unique pattern called Widmanstätten, appreciated by collectors and jewellery designers for its beauty. To match this quintessential chronometer for connecting worlds, a sturdy case measuring 40mm in diameter and thickness of 14mm complements the ticker's multitasking capability. The automatic movement has also been validated by COSC and is protected by the patented Amortiser® anti-shock system.

Whether you are soaring through a starlit expanse or traversing a dark terrain at any altitude, the extraordinary glow from the watch lights up like a beacon in the velvet cloak of night. Once again, Ball's tritium gas technology has been integrated into each applied hour marker on the dial, as well as the local hour, minute and GMT hand. Gleaming in harmony with the ceramic bezel's Super-LumiNova coating, three time zones can be quickly read without any difficulty.

Durability also meets smart utility in this lightweight all-rounder. To track a third time zone, just tinker with the bi-directional rotating bezel and red/blue ceramic insert that features 24 markings. Not only can the scratch-proof ceramic withstand daily knocks and harsh conditions, it is also resistant to ultraviolet rays to protect its long-lasting colour. Manufacturing coloured ceramic is no mean feat — the brighter the shade, the more difficult it is to stabilise the material during the sintering process, as it will be heated at a temperature as high as 1,600°C.



Engineer II Moon Phase Chronometer



Lunar lustre

Computing may be able to turn celestial observations into a precise science, but where is the romance in that? Although Ball's creations, rendered in exquisite detail, beg to be admired, they also invite us to peer beyond the immediate and, perhaps, find quiet elegance in the waxing and waning of our lunar neighbour. Ogle at a piece of the moon when you lift the new Engineer II Chronometer to your eyes.

Powered by a specially developed movement module, the sub-dial at 6 o'clock displays the phases of the moon for both the Northern and Southern hemispheres. Fine-tuned by the watchmakers in La Chaux-de-Fonds, the complication accurately reveals the time required for Earth's natural satellite to return to its original position in relation to the sun and our planet (that will be 29½ days). This trusty, fully automatic ally runs on RR1804-C and has been certified by COSC too.

Equal parts sporty and dressy, the watch, which comes in 41mm and 43mm, is underscored by smooth curves, classic design and robust finishing to fit all types of exploration gear and formal attire. And when day turns to night, the micro gas tube on the dial, paired with the Super-LumiNova coating on the display, ensures a bright moon every night. The relentless pursuit of precision, while being teased by our natural fascination for astronomy, is a big part of what makes watchmaking always interesting. Driven by a desire to bring the vast, inscrutable sky down to human scale, Ball has successfully turned the abstract concrete. **E**



Bell & Ross

Discover the latest innovations from the watchmaker renowned
for crafting indispensable tools for professionals



BY DIAN PASQUINAL KAUR

The story of Bell & Ross began in 1992, when a visionary team set out to bring functional and reliable timepieces to the wrists of professionals and connoisseurs alike. Founded by Bruno Belamich and Carlos A Rosillo, it drew strong inspiration from the aviation industry. This French brand quickly distinguished itself by tailoring watches to military specifications, standing out among its peers for its dedication to precision and durability.

The foundation of Bell & Ross is built upon the collaboration of watch designers and aeronautical control panel specialists, united by a singular mission: to create timepieces perfectly suited for professional use. Their ambitious goal was to blend the rich tradition of Swiss watchmaking with the stringent demands of individuals working in extreme conditions. This unique synergy of expertise has allowed the brand to craft watches that are not only aesthetically pleasing but also exceptionally functional.

Bell & Ross timepieces adhere to four fundamental principles: legibility, functionality, reliability and precision.

Every detail of their design is meticulously considered to serve a specific purpose, ensuring that the watch is not just an accessory but a vital tool for its wearer. This commitment to technical precision is reflected in the brand's clean lines and timeless elegance, creating watches that are both sophisticated and utilitarian.

To meet and exceed the expectations of its users, the relative newcomer in the watch industry brings together experts with complementary skills. Professional users, designers, engineers and master watchmakers combine their knowledge and experience to achieve a common objective — the creation of utilitarian timepieces. This collaboration follows a clear motto: “the essential must never compromise the superfluous”. This guiding principle ensures that every watch is designed with the utmost care and attention to detail, focusing solely on what truly matters for its users.

The watches are not just used but trusted by professionals working in some of the most extreme conditions imaginable. Professions that demand absolute precision — such as astronauts, pilots, divers and bomb disposal experts — rely on these watches as essential



Options include a blue ray dial (top) and a black one (below), both featuring satin-finished and polished steel case



tools for their missions. Hence, it is important that they deliver on these requirements with unwavering consistency.

Today, Bell & Ross stands as a leading brand in the exclusive world of professional-grade watches. Its commitment to the core values continues to drive the brand forward. By staying true to these principles and constantly innovating, it ensures its timepieces remain indispensable to those who rely on them, both in professional contexts and in everyday life.

The dedication to excellence and its ability to merge practicality with elegance have solidified its reputation as a creator of some of the most respected and reliable watches in the world, as these new launches prove.

To dive for

When it comes to merging technical innovation with elegant design, Bell & Ross does it with flying colours. This year, it raises the bar with its latest innovation through the new BR 03 Diver collection, which comprises five meticulously crafted models, blending technical prowess with aesthetic sophistication to

deliver unmatched performance under the sea. Designed with both professional mariners and diving enthusiasts in mind, these watches ensure reliability and durability, even in the most challenging conditions.

Bell & Ross has a storied history in creating high-performance diving watches. Since the launch of the Hydromax in 1997, which set a world record for water resistance at a depth of 11,100m, the brand has continuously pushed the boundaries of watchmaking. The BR 02 series, introduced in 2007, featured essential diving tools like a helium decompression valve and an ultra-resistant curved sapphire crystal. In 2017, the BR 03-92 Diver redefined the genre with its unique square case, proving that diving watches need not adhere to traditional round designs.

The 2024 diver models have undergone significant upgrades to enhance both functionality and aesthetics. Each watch now features a ceramic insert in the bezel for increased durability along with an improved movement that extends the power reserve to 54 hours. The readability has been optimised with new typography and redesigned hands, ensuring legibility even in the darkest depths. Additionally, an adaptable strap guarantees a perfect fit for any wrist size, enhancing comfort and practicality.

Adhering to the stringent ISO 6425 standards for diving watches, the new models are built to withstand extreme underwater conditions. They are tested for water resistance up to 300m and must endure a series of rigorous tests, including thermal shock resistance and condensation prevention. This testing ensures each watch meets the highest standards of reliability and performance, making them indispensable tools for professional divers.

The collection includes several standout models including the diver steel in black, white and blue. These watches feature a 42mm x 42mm polished and satin-finished steel case. The unidirectional rotating bezel with a ceramic insert matches the dial colour while the redesigned hands and indices improve readability.

The BR 03 Diver Black Matte, with a matte ceramic case, evokes the sleek design of stealth vessels. It boasts improved readability and resistance, thanks to the enlarged type on the graduated scale and the enhanced bezel design. And finally, the Full Lum model stands out with a dial entirely coated in Super-LumiNova, providing exceptional visibility in the dark. The watch face emits a blue glow, while the indices and hands emit a green glow, making it perfect for deep-sea diving.

Light + mighty

The BR-X5 Black Titanium is a contemporary expression of Bell & Ross' watchmaking expertise, blending performance materials with innovative design. This new timepiece is crafted from a famously lightweight and resilient metal, titanium, which has a long history of use in both aviation and contemporary fine watchmaking.

Titanium's unique properties, including its extraordinary weight-to-strength ratio, hypoallergenic nature and high resistance to corrosion, make it an ideal material for professional instrument watches.

The BR-X5 Black Titanium boasts a distinctive style, with an understated grey colour that sets it apart from stainless steel and white gold. Weighing in at a full third lighter than steel, this high-tech material offers unparalleled comfort and durability. The architecture of the multi-component case enhances these qualities, featuring a sandwich-type design that prioritises purity, radicality, lightness and resistance. The 41mm case, hollowed out and made entirely of grade 2 titanium, houses a waterproof container to protect the manufacture movement. The case's anti-reflective matte finish, achieved through fine micro-sandblasting, showcases the model's unique design while minimising glare.

Its assembly is a testament to the watchmaker's commitment to innovation and craftsmanship. The square bezel and sapphire glasses are fixed on two plates to form the top and bottom of the case, secured with four screws that ensure the piece remains watertight and perfectly sound. This multi-layer assembly not only enhances the watch's durability but also its aesthetic appeal.

Speaking of reaching new heights in style and performance with the BR-X5 line, creative director and co-founder Belamich



The BR-X5 Black Titanium in matching or black rubber strap



BR 05 Chrono Grey Steel & Gold

says, "With its manufacture movement and sophisticated design, the BR-X5 has become an iconic watch for the brand and its watchmaking expertise." The watch's functionality takes centre stage, with clear and precise indices, a large date aperture at 3 o'clock, and a circular power reserve indicator at 9 o'clock. The indices and hands (except for the second hand) are coated with SLN X1 type white luminescent material, ensuring optimal readability in all lighting conditions. The minute indices are displayed on a flange, further enhancing legibility.

The new watch is powered by the BR-CAL.323 self-winding mechanical movement, which operates at a frequency of 28,800 vibrations per hour (4Hz) and boasts a power reserve of approximately 70 hours. This highly precise movement, visible through the large sapphire crystal caseback, is equipped with an oscillating weight and a variable-inertia balance wheel.

The movement also features a rapid date correction device, adjustable at any time and is chronometer-certified by the COSC, Switzerland's official chronometer testing institute, guaranteeing its performance and reliability for five years.

Bi-material marvel

Refined, sophisticated and highly contemporary, the BR 05 Chrono Grey Steel & Gold is an urban chronograph that exudes extraordinary aesthetic appeal and practicality.

Since its launch in 2019, the BR 05 collection has embodied the brand's core values while capturing a distinctly modern style with its unique geometric case design. This timepiece, a beautiful juxtaposition of ruthenium and rose gold, stands out with its round and square shapes while reflecting the brand's commitment to merging rigour and perfection.

Drawing inspiration from the 1970s trend of combining gold and steel, the BR 05 Chrono Grey Steel & Gold is a

modern tribute to the sport-chic style. This isn't Bell & Ross' first foray into bi-material models; the 2022 BR 05 Chrono Edición Limitada, with its gold and steel case and Havana-coloured dial, was a memorable predecessor. The new BR 05 model, however, elevates this blend of materials and colours to new heights.

The 42mm case, water-resistant to 100m, is crafted from steel with satin finishes and polished accents, highlighting its architectural lines. The bezel and central links of the integrated bracelet are made from 18k rose gold, creating a striking visual contrast with the grey ruthenium dial. This dial, achieved through galvanisation, features a metallic reflection that enhances its graphic appeal. It includes a chronograph minute counter at 3 o'clock, a small seconds counter at 9 o'clock and a date window between four and five o'clock. The white hands and indices are coated with luminescent material to ensure perfect legibility, while gold accents on the dial add a touch of luxury.

A notable design feature is the continuous line formed by the winding crown and chronograph pushers, which seamlessly integrates into the case. This design choice emphasises the watch's elegant yet functional aesthetic, eliminating superfluous elements to focus on the essentials.

The bi-material timepiece also features a contemporary watchmaking innovation: the integration of the steel bracelet into the case. This design, reminiscent of 1970s styles, creates a cohesive look that is both modern and visually striking. The bracelet can be swapped for a black rubber strap, which completely transforms the watch's appearance into a sporty character.

Powered by the BR-CAL.326 self-winding mechanical movement, it offers reliability and efficiency as it oscillates at 28,800 movements per hour with a power reserve of 60 hours. The movement's rotor, visible through the glass caseback, is a finely skeletonised disc, a signature of Bell & Ross self-winding movements. **E**

Cartier

Original, elegant and audacious, the French house's watches do more than just tell the time



Reflection de Cartier

BY TAN GIM EAN

Seeing double is just half the story of the Reflection de Cartier, a cuff with a concealed watch that tells the time upfront and on the opposite side. This combination of jewellery and watch, but a totally new creation, is fascinating, bold and stylishly cool.

A delicate dial on one end of the cuff meets its reflection on the polished surface facing it, giving the illusion of time moving backwards. The dial's bevelled glass marks this sculptural piece's double identity, equal in sophistication and precision.

Reflection comes in yellow and rose gold, and studded with gems — one piece in brilliant-cut diamonds set in white gold and two others in white gold paved with coloured stones. Daring to reach for the unknown inspired the maison to aspire for new heights and create the last two timepieces.

The first reprises Louis Cartier's much-loved peacock motif in a chromatic harmony of blue and green.



From left: The Reflection de Cartier Cuff with hidden watch in brilliant-cut diamonds set in white gold; yellow and rose gold; and with a peacock motif in harmonious blue and green

Emeralds, chrysoprases, obsidian, Paraiba tourmalines and an iridescent blue-green lacquer wrapped around chiselled gold complete this model. The second is encircled with opal, amethysts, spessartite garnets and tiger's eye inserts.

The shape of these high-jewellery pieces is what attracts immediately: the open bracelet's unusual architecture blends openwork and polished reflective gold with elongated lines and defined edges. The combination of fullness and emptiness, angularity and curvature is surely a reflection of the savoir-faire of Cartier's watchmakers and jewellers, who have pushed physical boundaries to "transcribe the mysteries of time".

It is all about playing with the contrasts of the textures — the myriad gems and graininess of the paving versus the smoothness of the lacquered elements and the openwork, and the originality of the reverse setting.

Like everything that creates magic and illusion, it is not enough to just look at the Reflection de Cartier watch.



Santos-Dumont Rewind

You have to touch and feel it with your hands to appreciate its true beauty.

Marie-Laure Cérède, Cartier's jewellery and watchmaking creative director, describes the Reflection as a veritable sculpture to wear on the wrist — like a skeletonised chain link that must be “broken” to discover the time.

“Disruption is woven throughout: different sections interrupt the visual rhythm and flow, and a variety of angles and faces break up its roundness. It tempts disorientation by playing with reflections, playing with architecture, and continuing to defy categorisation.”

Aviation inspiration

Brazilian aeronaut Alberto Santos-Dumont (1873-1932) was convinced that flying an airship was comparable to “pushing a candle through a brick wall”. Fuelled by that belief, he charted many firsts, among them taking No 6, a dirigible balloon he designed and made, from the Paris suburb of St Cloud to the Eiffel Tower and back under 30 minutes in 1901.

This can-do spirit and defiance against gravity and time, to push higher and farther towards the unknown made him an aviation hero to many, among them the house of Cartier. With characteristic audacity, it created two new watches that hail his conquests at a time when flight was merely a pipe dream.

Santos de Cartier Dual Time is a reminder of its namesake's daring and how he overcame distance in pursuit of his vision. Its mechanical movement with automatic winding combines two time zones, allowing the wearer to tell the time where he is at and came from, simultaneously and spot on.

Tapered, ergonomic lines connect the case and bracelet with the elegant synergy for which the brand is known. The steel version continues on that slant with details such as rhodium-finish sword-shaped luminescent hands, a seven-sided faceted crown and a grey counter showing a second adjustable time zone.

Practicality is paramount in flight and the Santos collection's bracelet, in steel and leather, delivers on that. An invisible QuickSwitch system blends with the case architecture, allowing you to change both at a snap. Or, adjust the metal bracelet to fit your wrist just as easily, tool-free.

Audacious could have been Santos-Dumont's moniker, and it would have been accurate. Following that track in technique and aesthetics, Cartier created the all-new Santos-Dumont Rewind watch, which shows anything is possible when heart and mind drive invention.

This limited-edition release in titanium literally changes the course of time with Roman numerals arranged in reverse on a carnelian dial. It is driven by Calibre 230 MC, a mechanical movement with reversed manual winding that moves apple-shaped hands backwards in a square case with rounded corners.

The result is a timepiece that beats with the pioneering spirit of the original 1904 model Louis Cartier made for his friend Santos-Dumont — a pocket watch with straps so he could free his hands to manoeuvre his aircraft. With the maison's signature engraved on both sides of the dial and limited to 200 numbered pieces, this latest creation is for all time.

Three new models in olive green and platinum, blue peacock and rose gold, or taupe grey and yellow gold join the Santos-Dumont collection. Smoothed and hand-polished lacquer give their dial, bezel and case a translucent shine, adding depth and contrast to the colours. Arabic numerals complement the size and curves of this exclusive range, powered by Calibre 430 MC.

Classic yet contemporary

History and legacy lay the groundwork for design at Cartier, whose story goes back to 1847, when Louis-François Cartier (1819-1904) took over the workshop of his master



Santos de Cartier Dual Time



Panthère De Cartier watch, small model, quartz movement, yellow gold, diamonds



Panthère De Cartier watch, small model, quartz movement, rose gold, diamonds

Adolphe Picard in Paris, leading to the founding of the brand. Fast forward to today, and the maison is recognised worldwide for crafting luxury wristwatches, fine jewellery and gemstones.

Its iconic motifs and collections continue to wow and win hearts, even as contemporary pieces are added to classic collections, or shapes, parts and settings are refreshed to enhance a model. Two famed lines that offer something new are the Panthere, which is emblematic of the brand, and the Tank, designed by Louis Cartier in 1917 and prized for a silhouette that brings to mind armoured vehicles used during WWI.

There is something sinuous about the panther as it slinks or pauses before pouncing that captivates. In the same way, Panthere de Cartier rings, brooches and necklaces arrest attention with its regal ferocity, and the quiet intensity of its mesmerising green eyes.

The Panthere de Cartier bracelet watch is both a piece of jewellery and timepiece, with its ultra-flexible structure that echoes the movements of the stunning creature.

A new and refined silver and satin-brushed dial, like a subtle sunray, and steel sword-shaped hands with a pink golden finish are the charm here.

The new “clou” setting draws out the shine of its 60 diamonds and reinforces the jewel element of this watch. A golden finish on the indices befits the yellow gold of the small model, while a high autonomy quartz movement drives this precious accessory so that you will want to wear it on every special occasion.

Cartier's Tank now sports a new mini size — 24mm by 16.5mm — but retains its solid, recognisable design. A reshaped gold case with new proportions broadens its appeal, especially with satined horizontal brancards and smooth angles that stay true to the Tank's DNA.

Keeping it fuss-free works wonders for the mini model with quartz movement. A silver-grained dial with blued-steel sword-shaped hands and an alligator leather strap in shiny black lift the Tank from simple to sophisticated. Add a beaded yellow gold crown set with a blue sapphire cabochon and this watch is set to endure. **E**

Breaking the mould

These fine tickers boast a universal appeal with their timeless and sophisticated designs

BY AIREENA AZNI



Manufactured for men and women, the **Omega** Speedmaster 38mm collection proves that precious diamonds are not exclusively for the girly girls. While the 38 stays true to the original artistic code of the Speedmaster, the updated iteration is all about sparkly jewels. Presented in a polished 18-carat gold or steel case, the bezel is lavishly set with 52 diamonds. This extravagance is extended to its three subdials and crown.



The new **Hermès** Cut automatic watch combines elements of nuanced design and simplicity in a round 36mm case, sliced on both sides to create that distinctive “cut” effect. The feature is accentuated with a polished finish against the satin-brushed case, which also accommodates the crown placed between 1 and 2 o’clock. This timepiece is available in stainless steel or two-tone steel and rose gold, with a diamond-set bezel option for those who fancy a dressier style.



An elegant travel companion, the **Longines** Master Collection GMT is a timeless watch created for the globetrotter. With a thickness of just 10.4mm, it is beautifully designed in a 40mm 18-carat yellow or rose gold case with applied gold hour markers painstakingly set on a frosted silver dial. It is equipped with a 24-hour scale in Arabic numerals on the rim, reversed at 3 and 9 o’clock for easier reading of the second time zone.



A champion in the unisex watches segment, **Cartier** brings back the beloved Tortue Monopoussoir Chronograph from its Privé collection. Sure to please collectors and enthusiasts, its sophisticated structure boasts one of the maison’s oldest and most classic shapes. This new model is fashioned with a gleaming yellow gold or platinum case measuring 43.7mm by 34.8mm, a size that fits just nicely on the wrist. The Manufacture 1928 MC movement powering the watch is also the brand’s thinnest chronograph.



Last year was remarkable for the iconic **Tag Heuer** Carrera Date as the model was downsized, making it universally appealing to both genders. This year, it is reimagined in four new colours. One shade that strikes a nice balance between feminine and masculine is this stunning copper. The snail-brushed dial is understated yet arresting enough to command attention from boardroom to ballroom. It is driven by the Calibre 7 Automatic movement that equips the watch with 56-hour power reserve.



Boasting a clean look that speaks of the brand’s minimalist signature, the **Nomos Glashütte** Tangente 38 is housed in a 38mm stainless steel case with only five Roman numerals printed on the galvanised, white silver-plated dial, further highlighting its sleek structure. It is fixed with cornflower blue hands for a pop of colour. A versatile timepiece made to suit various style preferences, it is produced in 31 colourways, making it possible to accessorise differently every day of the month.



MARTIN FREI
Co-founder of URWERK
Artist and Chief designer

FELIX BAUMGARTNER
Co-founder of URWERK
Master watchmaker

"I think the duration of an hour should be a period of play. It should be celebration for that one specific hour in life and so you should have something on your watch, something exciting, thrilling and engaging to represent it."

THE UR-100V LS

The UR-100V and its iconic wandering hour satellite
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Chanel

The Parisian brand continues to redefine luxury watchmaking with cool creativity and technical mastery while remaining true to the codes of the house



Monsieur. Superleggera
Intense Black Edition

BY DIAN PASQUINAL KAUR

Time has profoundly shaped our existence, becoming an integral thread in the fabric of our lives. In the same manner time weaves its way through our daily experiences, Chanel — celebrated for its iconic tweed fashion, two-tone pumps, quilted bags, N°5 fragrance and more — masterfully blends art and precision into its watches, just as it has been doing for decades since its founding.

At the heart of the watchmaking world in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland, lies the brand's watch manufacture. Here, time is not just measured but crafted with unparalleled artistry and accuracy.

Since the launch of the emblematic Première in 1987, every timepiece has been brought to life in this unique place where the passion of expert craftsmen, the excellence of traditional savoir-faire and the precision of innovative technical tools unite.

From the first designs to the final checks, the creation of a new Chanel timepiece

involves a seamless collaboration between many complementary métiers. An in-depth dialogue takes place between the Creation Studio in Paris and master watchmakers in the Alpine paradise, ensuring each watch is a perfect blend of creativity and technical mastery.

At the Watch Creation Studio, headed by Arnaud Chastaingt and located at Place Vendôme in Paris, each piece begins as a visionary idea. These creative concepts are then transformed into tangible works of art by skilled and meticulous master watchmakers at the manufacture. This harmonious blend of artistic innovation and technical expertise exemplifies how the Parisian brand continues to shape and redefine our perception of time, one exquisite timepiece at a time.

Machismo marvel

For the discerning gentleman who values both performance and style, the Monsieur watch challenges the convention of haute horlogerie from both its front and back

faces. At the heart of this exceptional timepiece lies the Calibre 1, which the manufacture meticulously developed by blending technical prowess with aesthetic refinement.

In its latest iteration, the Superleggera Intense Black Edition pays homage to the sleek sophistication of racing cars and is a testament to exclusivity and painstaking craftsmanship. The case and bezel are carefully crafted from matte black highly resistant ceramic and steel, further enhanced with a black coating. On the caseback, a steel and sapphire crystal display proudly bears the inscription "Limited to 100", underscoring its rarity and prestige.

The dial, finished in matte black guilloché, exudes understated elegance and is complemented by a crown in steel with a black coating for a seamless aesthetic. A black nylon strap, adorned with calfskin leather trim and lining as well as a steel triple-folding buckle, ensures both comfort and durability.

The manual-winding mechanical marvel features two integrated

complications: an instant jumping hour and a 240° retrograde minute. Boasting a power reserve of approximately 72 hours, it functions with precision at 28,800 vibrations per hour and is housed within a compact movement measuring 32.60mm in diameter with a thickness of 5.50mm.

Cuff + conquer

Since its debut in 1987, the Première watch has brilliantly illuminated Chanel's watchmaking world with a unique fusion of innovation and sophistication. The groundbreaking creation was the brainchild of Jacques Helleu, who served as the artistic director for Chanel perfume, beauty products, watches and jewellery from 1965 to 2007. Inspired by the diamond-cut stopper (fashioned after the geometry of Place Vendôme in Paris) of the iconic N°5 perfume bottle and featuring a bracelet that echoes the interlaced chain of the classic quilted handbag, it revolutionised a domain traditionally dominated by men's watchmaking traditions.

This year, the brand's watchmaking studio celebrates this legacy by reinterpreting the essence of the Première Édition Originale. Introducing two new limited editions — the Cuff and the Sautoir-Belt watch — the studio continues to push boundaries, offering these timepieces as versatile fashion accessories.

The Première Cuff watch exudes sophistication with its steel case coated in 18-carat yellow gold and a black lacquered dial. Its unique bracelet features a steel chain interlaced with a black leather strap, secured by a triple-folding buckle also coated in 18-carat yellow gold. Powered by a high-precision quartz movement, it offers functionality with hours and minutes while maintaining water resistance up to 30m.

Meanwhile, the Première Sautoir-Belt watch stands out with its steel case coated in 18-carat yellow gold and a black-lacquered dial, enclosed by a blackened faceted sapphire crystal caseback. The steel chain, also coated in 18-carat yellow gold, intertwines elegantly with a black leather strap and snap hook, embellished with a black leather strap pompom. This limited-edition timepiece redefines modernity with its unconventional wearability and timeless design.

It sure looks like these new interpretations of the Première watch reaffirm its status as a symbol of elegance and sophistication.

Half a dozen of the other

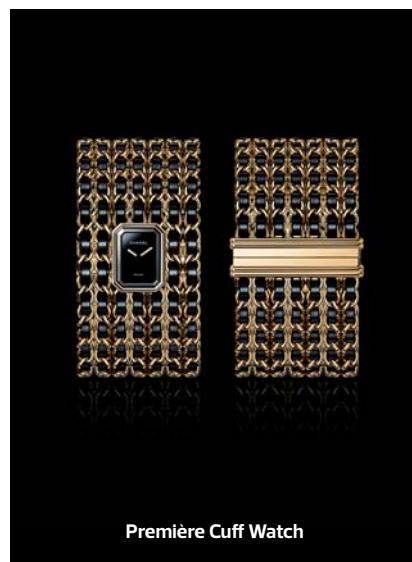
Another masterpiece designed by Hëlèu is the J12 that was released in 2000, and it would go on to become an icon for the creator as well as the brand. The name originates from 1930s J-class 12m race boats used in open-ocean yacht racing regattas like the America's Cup. In contrast to the delicate Première, the J12 is designed as a sporty and robust timepiece.

In 2023, the brand unveiled the J12 Calibre 12.1 watch. Marking its debut in 18-carat yellow gold, it harmoniously blends masculine and feminine elements in both black and white ceramic in an ode to the codes of Chanel in every aspect.

Building on this legacy, the studio introduces the new J12 watch this year which integrates yellow gold with diamonds for an opulent reinterpretation. Available in black or white ceramic, each version features a bezel adorned with 50 brilliant-cut diamonds and a dial embellished with 12 brilliant-cut diamonds, adding a sparkling touch of luxury. The Calibre 12.1 movement, visible through the sapphire crystal caseback, showcases meticulous craftsmanship with its oscillating weight in a perfect circle — an emblem of Chanel watchmaking excellence.

The self-winding Calibre 12.1, crafted at the Swiss Manufacture Kenissi co-owned by the maison, boasts the COSC chronometer certification and offers a generous power reserve of 70 hours. The black and white models feature highly resistant ceramic and 18-carat yellow gold cases, complemented by matching bracelets and steel triple-folding buckles.

With a diameter of 38mm and water resistance up to 50m, each watch combines functionality with elegance. The J12 Calibre 12.1 series exemplifies Chanel's commitment to innovation and timeless



Première Cuff Watch



Première Sautoir-Belt Watch

sophistication, offering discerning enthusiasts a choice that epitomises luxury watchmaking at its finest.

Sparkling salutation

Inspired by Gabrielle Chanel's legendary couture atelier at Rue Cambon, here comes the exquisite J12 Rue Cambon Automaton. This timepiece transcends traditional watchmaking by animating the dial to the rhythmic pulse of the couture workshop, where the figurine of Mademoiselle Chanel, her scissors and a couture dummy come to life against a backdrop of great artistry.



J12 Calibre 12.1 Black Watch



J12 Rue Cambon Automaton



J12 White Star Couture

Made only in 100 pieces, each watch features a matte black highly resistant ceramic case with polished bevels, paired with an 18-carat white gold and sapphire crystal caseback bearing the inscription 'LIMITED TO 100'. The steel-fixed bezel, coated in black and adorned with 48 baguette-cut diamonds totalling about 3.19 carats, crowns it as the pièce de résistance.

The dial itself is a masterpiece, intricately depicting the Rue Cambon couture workshop decor, complete with a statuette of Coco Chanel and a couture bust. A non-screw-down crown in steel, also coated in black and set with a brilliant-cut diamond, further enhances its elegance.

Crafted with meticulous attention to detail, the watch boasts a matte black ceramic bracelet with polished bevels and a steel triple-folding buckle. Water-resistant up to 50m and with a diameter of 38mm, it houses the Calibre 6 — a manual-winding mechanical movement with an automaton function. This technical marvel comprises 355 components, including 54 rubies, operating at a frequency of 28,800 vibrations per hour (4Hz) with a power reserve of 72 hours.

The J12 White Star Couture watch, on the other hand, epitomises luxury and exclusivity with its exquisite design and meticulous craftsmanship. Adding much exclusivity is that it is limited to just 12 pieces.

Encased in steel with a sleek black coating, the watch exudes a dazzling brilliance in 22 baguette-cut white ceramics and 55 baguette-cut diamonds (totalling about 3.58 carats) on its case. The sapphire crystal caseback proudly displays the limited-edition inscription, highlighting its rarity.

The bezel, adorned with a striking white baguette ceramic pattern, complements the white baguette pattern ceramic rings on the dial. A non-screw-down crown in steel with black coating, embellished with a brilliant-cut diamond, adds a touch of sophistication.

Completing its opulent look is a steel bracelet with black coating, adorned with 342 baguette-cut white ceramics and 160 baguette-cut diamonds (about 7.51 carats), secured by a steel triple-folding buckle. The Calibre 12.1 self-winding manufacture movement, COSC chronometer-certified, powers the watch with precision, featuring a black oscillating weight set with 34 brilliant-cut diamonds and boasting a power reserve of approximately 70 hours.

With a diameter of 38mm and water resistance up to 50m, the J12 White Star Couture watch is a masterpiece that combines the allure of diamonds with the enduring elegance of ceramic, making it a coveted statement piece for discerning collectors.

Franck Muller

This trailblazer is flexing its muscles in the haute horlogerie arena while paying tribute to house classics



Master Jumper



Giga Tourbillon

BY GENIE LEONG

While it is true experience and wisdom come with age, revolution and ambition are the hallmarks of youth. For proof, look no further than Swiss watchmaker Franck Muller. Founded in 1991 by the craftsman whose name the brand bears, and entrepreneur Vartan Sirmakes, the award-winning house goes toe-to-toe with the industry's most heralded labels. Its insatiable inquisitiveness and hunger to curate the extraordinary have led to the conception of several groundbreaking designs, each crafted with not only a desire to make something visually exciting, but also the intention of pushing practical boundaries.

From innovative gem-setting techniques to experimental materials, Franck Muller has proven time and time again that there is always an unexplored niche to dive into, another stone to turn over. This year, the label's adventurous spirit has culminated in the Long Island Evolution, a trio of timepieces imagined as modernisations of the original 2000 three-hand model that was known for its

subtly curved build, short lugs and arched numerals inspired by the ornamental geometry of the Art Deco period.

Released as an Asia-Pacific exclusive, the limited-edition line-up comprises the Long Island Evolution Giga Tourbillon, Master Jumper and 7 Days Power Reserve, with only eight, 100 and 300 units respectively.

Succeeding a house icon with flair is not an easy feat. To fill such a tall order, while still paying homage to the Long Island ethos, the archetype's design was broken down and reconstructed to produce a form that still echoes the one engineered by co-founder Sirmakes so many years ago, but with refined characteristics that allow every curve, angle and fine line to shine.

The key difference in the evolution is the incorporation of an inner case that helps lock in each little movement, designed down to the millimetre for a precise fit. This additional sheath also offers shock protection and enables a chic, screwless affixing of the sapphire crystal to the flange. Anodised in a saturated pine green hue, it pops against the black satin-finish titanium outer

case, while matte noir alligator leather straps — handsewn, of course — with verdant contrast stitching complete the watches' sporty, masculine appearance.

While the three timepieces share several external details, their inner instruments could not be more distinct. Arguably the most exciting of the three is the Master Jumper, boasting, as its name suggests, a wondrous triple jumping complication.

Jumping hour apparatus go back as far as the 19th century, but none before Franck Muller's has showcased numerical indications for both time and date functions — three tiny equidistant apertures arranged in a column down the vertical axis of the dial, with the hours at 12 o'clock, followed by the minutes at centre and the date at the bottom.

The five ticking discs — two each for the tens and ones in the minute and date windows, and one more to display the numbers 1 to 12 in hours — as well as the watch's complex internal system are visible on a bridge with cutouts through the transparent facade.

To achieve this high-tech look, the Master Jumper incorporates the brand's

inaugural inner sapphire crystal at the bezel level, which gives the facade additional visual depth. To further demonstrate the cutting-edge ability at hand, elements of the exceptional Calibre FM 3100, which was developed for this piece over the course of four years, are printed on the glass. This impressive mechanism is only enriched by a double-barrel system that ensures the timekeeper possesses sufficient torque to carry out its jumping functions no matter the time of day, even when the timepiece is approaching the end of its power reserve.

Meanwhile, the Giga Tourbillon plays on the iconic namesake design, continuing the maison's illustrious history of producing some of the best mechanisms in modern watchmaking. Dating back nearly 200 years, the first tourbillon was recognised by Franck Muller as a scientific and engineering breakthrough, and the mechanism grew to become a definitive cornerstone for the brand.

The watch's beating heart, the Flying Tourbillon movement, comes in a 20mm cage on ceramic ball bearings that takes



7 Days Power Reserve

up the entire bottom half of the case. A three-pointed sunray-brushed bridge, similar to the ones on the barrels holding four mainsprings, gives the display a fluid, contemporary look, further emphasised by an all-over black finish mirroring the PVD treatment on the case. As if the scale of the mechanism was not impressive enough, it also doubles as a second counter.

Offering a four-day power reserve, driven by the FM 3100-L calibre and exhibited between the two barrels, as well as Super-LumiNova-filled hands that glow in the dark to ensure seamless time-telling even after the sun has set, the Giga Tourbillon easily solidifies its position among Franck Muller's most audacious tourbillon timepieces.

Concluding the trilogy is the 7 Days Power Reserve, an absolute beast that will see you through the week with ease. Inspired by pocket-watch movements with a contemporary edge, the piece sports a traditional three-hand display with elongated diamond-shaped hands. Containing an oscillator running at a constant 18,000vph, it is fuelled by the FM 1745 calibre.

The piece's fully skeletonised look is most obvious on the movement's bridge, allowing the wearer an in-depth view of the model at work. For such a visually geometric item, balance is key, as seen in the small second counter at 6 o'clock that complements the large mainspring. Peer through the sapphire glass for a look at the gear train and winding gears, and flip the timepiece over to discover more behind the transparent back. Arabic numerals are illustrated with luminous paint, glowing in the dark to ensure fuss-free time-telling.

While still anchored in the design codes of one of Franck Muller's archetypal releases, these three new renditions speak of the young label's rebellious spirit and ability to interpret watchmaking traditions for the modern horologist. While the house's blockish silhouettes, big details and bold colours may not be for everyone, it is undeniable that the brand continues to inject newness and creativity into the industry. These signature elements are the pinnacle of decades' worth of mastering craftsmanship and serve as a glimpse into the future of modern watches. **E**



Enchanting expressions

In celebration of the Year of the Dragon, Franck Muller has released the whimsical Cintrée Curvex Ryoko Kaneta Dragon Limited Edition. Designed with Japanese artist Ryoko Kaneta, who is recognised for her whimsical, anime-like style known as *chibi*, this Asia-Pacific-exclusive watch succeeds last year's #FR2NCK MULLER Vanguard, which heralded the Year of the Rabbit.

On the stamped guilloché sunburst dial, a series of 12 doll-like girls with webbed wings and horns interact with each of the indices. This quaint style stands out against the Cintrée Curvex's neoclassical nuances — delicate spade hands, Arabic numerals, the MVT FM 2536-SC self-winding movement and, of course, the signature tonneau-shaped 5850 Cintrée Curvex case that wows with its conscientiously crafted contours that sit flush against the wrist.

As a symbol of strength, good health and prosperity, dragons are often depicted as regal and fearsome beasts, emphasised in Asian culture through the use of bold colours. However, the details on the timepiece take a different route as the artist has opted for a simpler version of her typically elaborate and colourful drawings. The anthropomorphic subjects on it are in black and white, with subtle splashes of aqua blue on their hair, clothing and tails to signify the dragon's role as the bringer of rain.

Should a rainbow of colours be more your style, then the new Vanguard Lady Slim Vintage deserves to be on your radar. Exhibiting pastel colours inspired by vintage automobiles like mint green, lead grey, pink and beige, this model comes with several classic watchmaking details. The most noteworthy is the Côtes de Genève decoration adorning the heart of the dial. This ribbing embellishment, along with the off-centre second counter, accentuates a charming Belle Époque feel.

Each stainless steel case is encrusted with brilliant diamonds. Corresponding bejewelled dials tread the line between jewellery and horology, ideal for those with a taste for the sublime. Should you prefer something a little more simple though, the plain sunray face option tones down the sparkle without compromising on aesthetics.

Also, do not mistake this number for being just a looker, for the slim 35mm case houses the MVT FM 708-S6 automatic movement. Put together with 125 individual components, the mechanism offers a 42-hour power reserve.



Behind closed doors

A visit to Switzerland's most respected horological manufactures reveals the collective effort that goes into producing your favourite timepieces end-to-end

BY EMILY YAP + KONG WAI YENG



CARTIER

Cartier's savoir-faire revolves around a constant dialogue between creativity and technique, an undertaking that unites all the disciplines under the expansive roof of horology at the service of sublime design. The maison has always acknowledged innovation as well as technological and mechanical research as crucial drivers for progression, which is why it comes as no surprise that the advanced watchmaking ecosystem they built continues to be one of the most revered in the industry.

The Cartier manufacture's constituents are spread across five different sites in Switzerland. Together with the métiers d'art workshop, its headquarters at La Chaux-de-Fonds employs some of the most brilliant horologists and craftspeople in the trade, making them the second-highest industrial employer in the Canton of Neuchâtel. From ideation to assembly and restoration, most aspects related to the manufacture's development, production and customer service materialise here, within the cradle of the Jura mountains.

From the first sketch to the finished product, the various stages are meticulously controlled by the manufacture, including the interactions between all collaborators, in order to meet the maison's high standard of quality.

Working closely together are the design and development teams. This is where creative ideas are translated into concrete plans for configuration. Resin mock-ups are made using 3D printers before a prototype is built and put through a series of rigorous tests. Then, a technical report is drawn up according to the results. This part of the manufacture is nicknamed the "Think Tank", a cheeky nod to the brand's most iconic design.

The industrial processes needed are determined based on the technical dossier. This is also the stage where recommendations for improvement are actioned. Once the green light is given, the model enters production, where the magic truly happens.

Time-honoured traditions and cutting-edge technologies work side by side within the workshops. For example, each of the



mineral crystals for the maison's famously shaped watches, such as the Crash and Tortue, are heated by specialists who validate the work through visual inspection. Cartier is also one of the rare brands that manufactures its own watch hands. The process includes stamping, manual straightening, polishing and colouring, all of which are exacted by experts from 12 different professions.

On the other hand, the links are produced using high-performance machines manned by skilled operators. The figures speak for themselves: nine bars can be processed simultaneously; the eight machining operations are completed in 30 seconds per link for the simplest models and up to 90 seconds for more complex ones. Inspections are made throughout the watches' entire life cycle up until they are sent to the boutiques.

Cartier offers an eight-year warranty for all its models, but if you own a vintage piece where components no longer exist, the restoration service can replicate the tools needed to refabricate the missing elements as well.

Right next to the La Chaux-de-Fonds property is the Maison des Métiers d'Art, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this month. Artisanal crafts and ancestral techniques, from gem setting and enamelling to gold filigree and marquetry, are executed here. One of the main missions of the site is to ensure these unique skills are not forgotten. While it is a meeting place for experienced virtuosos, ideas are often exchanged with new blood in order to rediscover, reinterpret and adapt the techniques in line with modern times.

TUDOR

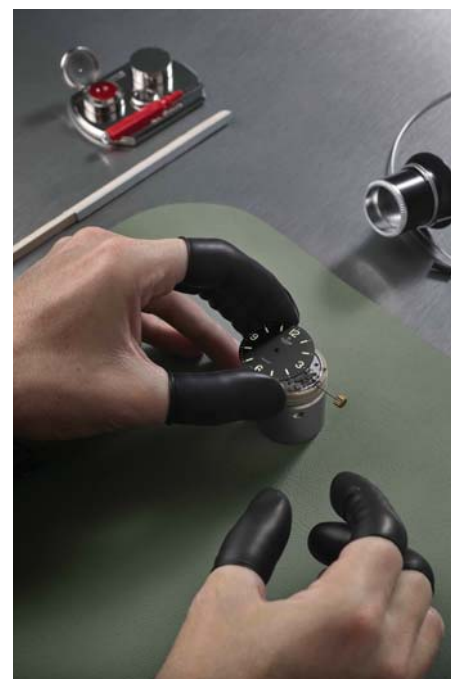
At Tudor's manufacture in Le Locle, Switzerland, eyes are not just trained on the minutiae that make up the heart of a timepiece. When artisans lift their heads to take a break, they are refreshed with a view of the emerald-green Jura Mountains. Completed in 2021 but officially inaugurated in March during Watches and Wonders 2023, this industrial facility is fully dedicated to assembling every Tudor timepiece as well as testing some METAS Chronometer-certified models.

Wanting to move the operations of Montres Tudor SA from Geneva closer to its affiliates and suppliers, the company decided to set up on undeveloped land next to sister brand Rolex. Now, the 114,000 sq ft Tudor stronghold is home to a skilled team of 150, who, with the help of robotics, deliver more than 700 references sold in 80 countries. To ensure this is carried out seamlessly, the red-clad structure is equipped with a HVAC system in the basement that creates a continuous flow of air from the ceiling to prevent dust from floating around the workshop. New air circulates the space 3½ times an hour.

Tudor operates on a "no stocking" philosophy, which means production is based on actual demand from clients and retailers. The brand achieves this through autonomous "cells", managed by four watchmakers trained in every discipline of the assembly process. Each cell, capable of putting together any reference in the Tudor collection, covers the three following operations in chronological order: dial-fitting, hand-fitting and casing.

Equally rigorous is the testing system, in which partially assembled watches (without their strap or bracelet) are subject to stringent evaluations pertaining to METAS or Tudor Performance Control stipulations. Automated by robots that run on a 24-hour circuit, the area consists of different departments where timepieces are tested on pressure, precision, extreme magnetism, waterproof capabilities and power reserve.

Tudor watches will not be complete without a beating core, the calibre, which



is crafted in an adjoining building. Named Kenissi, the movement manufacturing outfit, though majority owned and founded by Tudor, also supplies to its first non-native client Breitling, Tag Heuer, Norqain, Bell & Ross, Ultramarine and Chanel (which owns a piece of the business).

Kenissi's vertically integrated production line exemplifies Tudor's commitment to leveraging the power of combining the most advanced technology with the intuitive expertise of the human hand. First, the mainplate is mounted on an insert of appropriate diameter embedded with an RFID tag, which guarantees the correct routing of the soon-to-be calibre. This assures its full traceability and collects data to improve product quality. After passing a first fully automated test cycle on the assembly line, all movements will be sent to the COSC, the Official Swiss Chronometer Testing Institute.

Tudor's manufacture, whose sacred grounds have been graced by visits from brand ambassadors such as David Beckham and Jay Chou, proves that meticulous craftsmanship can confidently keep pace in a hurried high-tech world. The hills are most certainly alive and a-ticking in this part of the horological world.

FRANCK MULLER GENEVE

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Girard-Perregaux

This Swiss watchmaker's timepieces are never a product of haste, as evidenced by novelties that execute horology's trickiest materials in flawless fashion



Laureato Chronograph Ti49

BY EMILY YAP

Part of the founding generation of sports watches with integrated steel bracelets, Girard-Perregaux's first Laureato in 1975 instigated the birth of an enduring icon that encountered a melange of evolutions. Some may not know this but the timepiece was initially named the Quartz Chronometer. However, in Italy — the most important market for the brand at the time — the watch eventually became known among the cognoscenti as “the graduate (or *laureato*) of the school of Girard-Perregaux”.

The moniker, which served as an acknowledgment of the model's success and extraordinary precision, was ultimately adopted by the maison — fittingly so as the emblematic octagonal bezel sitting atop the case crowns it like a laurel. Almost half a century later, Girard-Perregaux is celebrating the model's 49th anniversary by entering titanium territory with the Laureato Chronograph Ti49.

Housed in a 42mm case, the sleek ticker subscribes to the iconic design language first seen on the inaugural timepiece. The octagonal bezel perches on a circular plinth resting on a tonneau-shaped case, whose facets and angles freely engage in light and shadow play.

Those familiar with the periodic table would have quickly recognised that the name of the watch is a portmanteau between the featured element (Ti for titanium) and the model's 49th anniversary. The timepiece specifically utilises titanium alloy 6-4, better known as Grade 5 titanium, which is used in an array of industries, including chemical, medical, marine and aerospace. This is also the first time the manufacture is presenting the chronograph in the material, comprising 90% titanium, 6% aluminium and 4% vanadium along with small traces of iron and oxygen.

The alloy boasts a long list of attributes — it is hypoallergenic, light yet strong and resistant to corrosion and magnetism — but it can also be polished to a brilliant gleam, a characteristic Girard-Perregaux has wonderfully exploited in the latest iteration. Brushed surfaces are juxtaposed with polished highlights on the case. And despite leaning towards the cooler colour spectrum, the metal bestows on the watch a subtly mellow and warm impression.

To accentuate the titanium's gunmetal hue, the manufacture opted for a monochromatic tone-on-tone look. A slate grey dial is decorated with a Clous de Paris stamped pattern — one of the hallmarks of the collection — and punctuated by three snailed counters: a 30-minute and 12-hour chronograph register



All in the allure

Building on the base of the 42mm automatic time-and-date model of the Laureato, Girard-Perregaux has released a pair of new watches gilded in 18-carat pink gold. While these will certainly gain favour amongst watch lovers who value visual presence, their curved profile — thanks to the integrated bracelet — allows them to ergonomically wrap around the wrist in a dignified manner.

These models uphold the Laureato tradition of juxtaposing polished and satin-finished surfaces throughout, but the new dials in Sage Green and Ultramarine Blue are the undisputed stars of the show.

Furnished with a Clous de Paris motif, which enlivens the surface with a three-dimensional look, the textured dial is the result of a time-consuming manufacturing process of over 50 steps. The intricately weaved pattern causes the colours to take on various hues when viewed from other angles, exhibiting a captivating medley of greens and blues that dance under different lighting.



Classic for the collection, gold-plated hands and applied markers take on a distinctive baton-arrow shape and are lined with luminescent material that glows a gentle green in dim lighting. The date is presented at 3 o'clock and employs white numerals on matching sage green or ultramarine blue discs.



Powered by the manufacture's Calibre GP01800, a self-winding movement comprising 191 components, the watch's viscera can be admired through an open caseback, where the pink gold oscillating weight finished in a circular Côtes de Genève pattern swings. This movement has a power reserve of at least 54 hours.



and a small seconds display. The date between 4 and 5 o'clock completes the list of functions, indicated by white stamping. Matching the indices, the grey PVD-treated baton-style hour and minute hands are lined with white luminescence to further increase contrast and aid readability.

The light and robust case houses the manufacture's Calibre GP03300, an automatic movement built up out of 419 meticulously finished components. The watch does come with a solid caseback, but rest assured the inner workings are also imparted with splendid decorations, such as Côtes de Genève stripes, circular graining, chamfering, mirror polishing and satin finishing to name a few, by the maison's team of talented craftspeople.

Regardless of its sizable measurements, the Laureato Chronograph Ti49's lightweight material makes it a breeze to wear, especially with the downward-angled lugs, which comfortably mould the satin-finished and polished integrated bracelet to the wrist.

Out of this world

In 1867, Constant Girard reinterpreted the technical component of the bridge by bringing it front and centre in the Tourbillon with Three Gold Bridges. It was the first time in watchmaking that these functional parts, typically hidden from view, were employed as an aesthetic element on the face. Because of this, Girard-Perregaux soon became known as the horologists who made the invisible visible and they continue to do so in new, inventive ways.

Today, the Bridges collection still focuses on uniting function and beauty, expressing it in both classical and contemporary forms, while paying tribute to the maison's rich heritage. Its latest creation upholds the



manufacture's fondness for symmetry while combining avant-garde design with cutting-edge materials. The Girard-Perregaux Free Bridge Meteorite builds on previous Free Bridge models in terms of architecture but differentiates itself with the addition of a material that has traversed interplanetary space.

The 44mm stainless steel case displays an unhindered view of the inverted motion works. From the mainspring barrel that animates under a sweeping black bridge at 12 o'clock to the going train that trails down to the balance wheel at 6 o'clock, there is much to examine and admire. As the timepiece is equipped with the latest Calibre GP01800-2085 — an evolution of the existing Calibre GP01800 — the escape wheel, pallet lever and arms of the elaborately shaped balance wheel

are formed of silicium, a lightweight material that is not liable to corrosion.

Made within a laboratory setting, silicium components can be moulded into intricate shapes that optimise geometry. It has a low coefficient of friction, which mitigates wear, thereby increasing durability, and is unaffected by changing temperatures in addition to being less susceptible to magnetic fields. As the Free Bridge Meteorite ushers in a variable inertia balance and escapement in the same cutting-edge material, the mechanism is less sensitive to adverse influences such as magnetism and shocks.

But the highlight of the timepiece is, of course, the meteorite plates standing guard at either side of the dial. Discovered in Namibia in southern Africa, the Gibeon

meteorite is composed of an iron-nickel alloy that incorporates small amounts of cobalt and phosphorus. The natural veins you see on the pieces are dubbed the Widmanstätten pattern, endowing each piece with a unique identity.

These plates are first machined into the desired shape and pierced to accommodate the screws. Then, they are carefully treated to reveal the unique pattern and finally rhodium-plated with a protective layer to prevent the iron-rich meteorite from corroding.

Playing with depth, finishes and textures, the timepiece exemplifies Girard-Perregaux's mastery when it comes to creating spellbinding visual interest. Note the suspended indices positioned on the flange? These, plus the hands, are filled with Super-LumiNova which produces a stark white glow, adding an almost celestial touch when it is dark. A sapphire crystal box encases the wonders while allowing plenty of light to illuminate the various indications. If you look closely, there are cutouts on the bezel at 6 and 12 o'clock where the sapphire crystal drops down to the midcase, creating two peepholes that afford a profile view to observe the model's distinctive three-dimensional styling.

Though unquestionably modern, the Free Bridge Meteorite also incorporates several traditional materials and techniques synonymous with fine watchmaking. One can find the components embellished with classical Côtes de Genève, bevelling and snailing as well as sandblasted finishes. The eagle emblem is also engraved on the Calibre GP01800-2085, consistent with all Girard-Perregaux manufacture movements.

Without deviating too far from the design hallmarks of the Bridges collection, the new Free Bridge Meteorite perpetuates the maison's inventive spirit by pushing the limits of horological creativity and performance. **E**

Grand Seiko

Drawing endless inspiration from the changing seasons, the Japanese expert shows how man-made marvels can respectfully mirror the serene



Hi-Beat 36000 GMT SBGJ277

BY KONG WAI YENG

Time ticks away silently but in the arcane universe of mechanical watches, sound is the ultimate achievement. Couple that with artistry underpinned by deep cultural heritage, local vernacular as well as technological innovation, and one may land at a horological powerhouse. A paragon of national pride and excellence, Grand Seiko stands out as a unique expression of Japanese ingenuity.

Echoing the brand's philosophy 'Nature of Time', the watchmakers thrive on the concept of *mono no aware* — a sensitivity to the ephemeral beauty of the world. Each curated piece is not just a marker of time but a meditation on it. Spring brings melting snow; summer courts curious pollinators; autumn colours mountains with streaks of tangerine; and winter calms raging valleys and rivers. These are just some reminders of the fleeting moments that compose our lives while letting natural wonders frame them.



This year, snow stands as one of the grand architects of inspiration. In the highlands during summer, when mountains shed their stoic and icy crowns, slender shoots and spires of green peek through the shroud of

white to create the scene of a refreshing alpine valley. This landscape, or *sekkei* in Japanese, underscores the motif of the Grand Seiko SBGJ277 launched at Watches and Wonders 2024. Its dial, as if urging us to find stillness and strength

in dormancy, mimics the texture and colour left behind by wintry days.

A new addition to the brand's Sport Collection, this Hi-Beat 36000 GMT SBGJ277, with its profound practicality for globetrotters, is an indispensable tool that bridges time zones to help wearers navigate the demanding pace of the world. Just as its name indicates, the timepiece, accurate to $\pm 5/-3$ seconds per day with a power reserve of 55 hours, runs on an in-house-built 9S86 hi-beat calibre that vibrates 36,000 times per hour.

The sporty 200m water-resistant stainless steel case has a diameter of 44.2mm, a thickness of 14.4mm and a sealed caseback. Finished to Grand Seiko's stringent standards, the case features finely brushed surfaces and mirror-polished accents using the brand's signature *Zaratsu* polishing technique. The downturned lugs gracefully embrace the wrist, creating the illusion of reduced lug-to-lug length. Together with the offset crown at 4 o'clock, this arrangement visually



Hi-Beat 36000 80 Hours SLGH021

diminishes the apparent size of the watch, enhancing its overall comfort and wearability.

Accented in green, the GMT arrow hand also matches the bi-directional bezel, which has a 24-hour scale. Facilitated by grooves along the edge that ensure a secure grip, the bezel incorporates a durable sapphire overlay that protects the LumiBrite beneath it. The application of the glowing material, which illuminates the white sections of the bezel, means that the watch can be consulted in the dark. It is also worth noting that the SBGJ277 also features another 24-hour track on the chapter ring. As a result, one can effectively set a total of three time zones simultaneously.

River reverie

When constructing a beautiful and new solution, does the dial come first or the inspiration? The answer is both for Grand Seiko, which immortalises a slice of Japan in a wristwatch while experimenting with different textures and materials. The Genbi Valley, stretching over 2km along the Iwai River in Iwate Prefecture (home to the Grand Seiko Studio Shizukuishi), serves as a creative impetus again, this time for the new SLGH021 that is part of the Evolution 9 collection.

Recognised as a Place of Scenic Beauty and Nature Monument in Japan, this ravine, eroded by nature over centuries, presents a captivating blend of dynamic and untamed scenery. With its sinuous curves and ceaseless flow, the Genbi Valley — where wilderness and gentle murmurs of the Iwai River intersect — imbues the SLGH021 with a sense of life and timelessness.

The Evolution 9 collection has always brought to mind the heritage 44GS model

circa 1967 but novel improvements in the SLGH021 will most certainly get loyal fans excited once more. The case and bracelet are made of Ever-Brilliant Steel, renowned for its unparalleled corrosion resistance among stainless steel grades worldwide used in regular high-end watches. This recently developed alloy, which shines extraordinarily bright when paired with Zaratsu-style polishing, marks its inaugural appearance in the Evolution 9 line-up. Its inherent ability to radiate a brilliant white sheen accentuates the vibrant green hue of the dial further, yielding a colour interplay of striking contrast.

Befitting the classier visual language of Evolution 9, this Genbi Valley tribute sports hands and indices that are more pronounced and discernible. Note how the skilled artisans have meticulously curved the second and minute hands. Each hour index has undergone painstaking diamond cutting, which

results in a flawlessly flat mirror finish that increases readability across various lighting conditions, reflecting even the faintest light.

To be expected from an award-winning watchmaker, the SLGH021 is powered by the brand's Hi-Beat automatic Calibre 9SA5, which runs on 47 jewels, has an accuracy of +5/-3 seconds per day, and a power reserve of up to 80 hours. This movement highlights several technical innovations such as the Dual Impulse Escapement, twin barrels and a free-sprung balance with a unique overcoil. Additionally, a newly designed horizontal gear train enables a slenderness construction, upping the watch's overall comfort.

Solar spotlight

The sun, so steadfast in its daily journey, continues to captivate minds with its brilliance and vitality. However, the powers of this radiant orb are harvested slightly differently on the 20th anniversary of the Calibre 9R Spring Drive movement. In the Shinshu region, where all Spring Drive iterations are produced, strong rays reflect off the jagged peaks of the Hotaka mountain range at dawn, painting the sky with ebullient colours that transform from pink to orange as the morning progresses. At times burgundy, other

times crimson, this tonal fluidity and delicate transition of time set the stage for the new "Tokyo Lion" Spring Drive Chronograph GMT.

The momentary light show is exemplified in a colour-changing dial achieved through a new patented technology that uses a physical vapour deposition process known as "Optical Multilayer Coating". Several layers of nanoscale film create an effect in which the dial exhibits a different hue depending on the angle of view. Combined with the silent glide motion of the second hand, the subtle but sublime transitioning of the hues brings a new dimension to the idea of the nature of time.

It would not be a milestone watch if the emblem of Grand Seiko, the lion, is not showcased in its full glory on the SBGC275. Synonymous with strength and courage, the king of the jungle is presented in every detail of the anniversary piece, such as the angularity of the case and the claw-like hairline-finished lugs juxtaposed against the Zaratsu-polished surfaces. Fortifying the case and bracelet are high-intensity titanium, which is about 30% lighter than stainless steel and has a brighter colour. Combine that with a water resistance of 20 bar and you will earn yourself a trusty ally that ensures the highest level of performance in any sporting situation.

Underneath the dial, the Calibre 9R96 (a specially adjusted version of the Calibre 9R86) with its seamless sweep devoid of any mechanical stutter inculcates this Spring Drive Chronograph GMT with approximately 72 hours of power reserve as well as up to 12 hours for the chronograph. It also has an extraordinary accuracy of +/-10 seconds per month.

Flip the seasons, and the same Hotaka mountain offers a different scenery altogether. So blazing is the sunrise in summer that the experts at Grand Seiko have taken to its vim and vividness. The fiery dark red dial on this limited edition SBGE305 Sports Collection piece, inspired by the morning glow of the Hotaka peaks, is encircled by a black, scratch-resistant ceramic bezel marked with a 24-hour scale that works in concert with the white-tipped GMT hand. The crown and the caseback are secured by screw-down mechanisms, and the watch is water resistant to 20 bar.

As with all Grand Seiko GMT watches, this model's ease of use is ensured through the local hour hand, which can be set independently, forward or backward, while the watch is running, ensuring precision is maintained when changing time zones according to one's whereabouts. Within this SBGE305 lies the 9R66 calibre, equipped with Spring Drive technology and a power reserve of 72 hours.

Under the spell of time, the transformative allure of nature has never been more apparent. Nowhere is this philosophy more felt than in the hands of Grand Seiko, which has increasingly turned to its surroundings to inform its designs. This reiterates that despite our technological leaps and bounds, every creature remains bound to the tempo and flow of the natural world.



Spring Drive GMT SBGE305



Calibre 9R 20th Anniversary SBGC275

IWC Schaffhausen

The Swiss manufacturer showcases its proficiency in high watchmaking with one of its oldest and most reliable collections



BY AIREENA AZNI

The Gregorian calendar is not the only calendar actively used around the world today, but it is the most widely adopted by many cultures for predicting the changes of seasons, equinoxes, solstices and when certain constellations will be visible. It was first introduced in February 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII in an effort to reform the Julian Calendar, developed in 46 BCE by Julius Caesar which was not quite accurate because the circuit is not exactly 365¼ days — it is approximately 11 minutes and 14 seconds longer than a solar year. Although this seems to be a very small discrepancy, it builds up to a deviation of one whole day every 128 years. The result was that by the 16th century, important dates such as Christian holidays would have shifted by around 10 days.

The Gregorian calendar's solution to this problem is that if a year can



be divided by 100, it is not a leap year unless it is also evenly divisible by 400. Meaning, 2000 and 2400 are leap years, while 2100, 2200 and 2300, for example, are common years. Translating this irregular calendar into a mechanical programme for a wristwatch remains one of the most challenging engineering feats in fine watchmaking.

A perpetual calendar was invented to consider the leap years as it is capable of calculating the right number of days in a month, whether it is 30 or 31, 28 for February and once every four years, 29 days. Hence, it only demands one correction every 100 years. This means that it will interpret 2100 as a leap year, and would require correction. The same will happen in 2200, 2300 and so forth.

Thus, the invention of a secular perpetual calendar plays a big role in addressing this matter and only a handful of watches have been manufactured with ultra-complex

Capturing the world

The realm of haute horlogerie continues to witness iconic and groundbreaking production year after year. Some make headlines for a short period while only a select few truly stand the test of time — never going out of style and remaining a crowd favourite from their first introduction. The IWC Portugieser Chronograph falls into the second category.

The 1995 Portugieser Chronograph Rattrapante instigated this phenomenon, capturing hearts with its modesty and simplicity. A clean dial, slim bezel and applied Arabic numeral hour markers are the design foundation of the watch. Adding to its elegance is the vertical arrangement of the subdials. The stopped minutes are placed directly at 12 o'clock while the small seconds are positioned at 6 o'clock — a layout that enhances readability and has become a distinguishing style of the Portugieser Chronograph.

This year at Watches and Wonders, IWC welcomed a new version in three distinctive colours. Horizon Blue's light shade is reminiscent of the sky during the sun-soaked height of the day. This soothing hue is complemented by a polished and brushed 18-carat white-gold case, rhodium-plated hands and appliques, and a gradient light blue calfskin strap. Another sophisticated option is the Obsidian black dial, complete with an 18-carat 5N gold case, gold-plated hands and gold appliques. This stunning combination encapsulates the black of the night and the golden glow of city lights against the darkness. It is fitted with a black alligator leather strap. Meanwhile, Dune is a beautiful representation of the late afternoon when the sun is above the horizon. It is paired with a stainless steel case, gold-plated hands and gold appliques, and a black alligator leather strap.

The making of the dials of these refreshed models is complex and exquisite, involving more than 60 steps. The brass base is first given a sunburst finish before it is coated with the respective shade.

movements to accommodate the changing cycles. IWC Schaffhausen's latest Portugieser Eternal Calendar is mechanically programmed to take the complex nuances of the variable dating system into account. It will calibrate the leap year correctly until at least the year 3999, as it has not been officially decided whether the year 4000 will be a leap year or not.

"Since Kurt Klaus developed his legendary perpetual calendar in the 1980s, IWC Schaffhausen has accumulated unique expertise in mechanical calendars that are ingeniously efficient in their design and easy to use. With the new Portugieser Eternal Calendar, we now venture further than ever before, touching the limits of eternity. Our first secular perpetual calendar automatically takes into account the Gregorian calendar's complex leap-year exception rules by skipping the



Horizon Blue



Obsidian black



Dune

Then, 15 layers of transparent lacquer are applied, fine-ground and polished to a high gloss. Following that, the totalisers are milled into both these layers. The three-dimensional effect on the dial is achieved through a special printing process. Finally, the appliques are mounted individually by hand.

The beating heart of the Portugieser Chronograph is the IWC-manufactured 69355 calibre, a mechanical chronograph movement engineered to ensure robustness, reliability and longevity.

leap year three times over 400 years," explains Chris Grainger-Herr, CEO of IWC Schaffhausen.

This is made possible with a 400-year gear whose slowest wheel completes a revolution only once every four centuries. While the Portugieser Eternal Calendar boasts the same modular and synchronised composition as the existing perpetual calendar, it is built with this new additional mechanism that will notify the calendar every four years at the end of February, about whether the leap year takes place or not. The gear is designed with three indentations that prompt the calendar to skip three leap years over that period. Such impressive efficiency and technical elegance are all made possible with only eight parts.

A moon phase display has also been fitted in the timepiece. After successfully achieving an accuracy of 577.5 years with the first Portugieser Perpetual

Between artistry + precision



The history of the Portugieser in IWC Schaffhausen can be traced back to the late 1930s when two Portuguese businessmen commissioned for wristwatches with the precision of marine chronometers. Over the years, the Swiss manufacture has produced many timepieces with great complications including various iterations of perpetual calendar and tourbillons. Its most complex creation to date is the Portugieser Sidérale Scafusia. Sporting astronomical displays, it took 10 years of intensive development work by specialists from various disciplines to put together the masterpiece. This amount of effort attests to the brand's commitment to fine watchmaking and craftsmanship.

Joining the list of IWC's high complications is the Portugieser Hand-Wound Tourbillon Day & Night, a sophisticated timepiece that highlights superlative artistry and technical prowess. Equipped with a freshly developed flying minute tourbillon — the most important component of the watch — at 6 o'clock, the device houses a diamond-coated silicon balance wheel and pallet lever inside a small cage that rotates around its axis once every minute. This constant movement helps reduce the influence of gravity on its oscillating system, which in return increases its accuracy. Comprising 56 individual parts assembled by experienced masters at IWC, the mechanism only weighs 0.675g — being lightweight and delicate are important as the tourbillon case stops and accelerates several times per second. The integrated tourbillon stop allows the instrument to be brought to a complete halt and the watch set with down-to-the-second precision.

A high power reserve of 84 hours tops off its outstanding performance. Although smaller in size, the 24-hour indication parked at 9 o'clock is equally prominent in contributing to the proficiency the watch. Boasting the shape of a small planet, the globe has a dark and bright side that rotates around its axis once every 24 hours, offering an enchanting visualisation to reveal day or night. This indication is integrated into the newly developed IWC-manufactured 81925 calibre. Elaborately finished with circular Geneva stripes that can be admired through the sapphire glass caseback, the movement is hand-wound and has no oscillating mass, so the small globe is visible from the front and back alongside the barrel and other components.

These two solid structures sit beneath a polished Obsidian black dial, showcasing stunning contrast and radiating tremendous depth. All of these fine components are beautifully displayed in a 42.4mm 18-carat Armor Gold case, fitted with a luxurious curved black alligator leather strap from Santoni, a renowned Italian manufacturer of luxury shoes and leather accessories.

Calendar in 2003, the engineers at IWC took many further steps to develop a new moon phase display that will only deviate from the lunar orbit by one day after 45 million years. The vital component for such unprecedented precision lies in the quantity of wheels used, their proportions and the number of teeth they have. IWC's engineers have utilised a special computer program to simulate more than 22 trillion different combinations, resulting in a new reduction gear train using three intermediate wheels.

This technical marvel is displayed on the dial using the watchmaker's iconic Double Moon indication, showcasing the night sky's brightest celestial as seen from the northern and southern hemispheres. Comprising two superimposed discs, the celestial piece has two small circular openings rotating above an immobile lower plate with two dots, giving a poetic

representation that the moons are waxing or waning.

A powerful machine driving this timepiece is the newly developed IWC-manufactured 52640 calibre, which features a super efficient Pellaton winding system. It builds up a power reserve of seven days in two barrels as it uses movements of the rotor in both directions. Easily admired through the box-shaped sapphire glass caseback, the movement has been elaborately finished with circular graining and Geneva stripes.

All of these wonderful instruments are housed in a polished platinum case and presented on a frosted and lacquered white glass dial. The depth of the glass lends the interiors a floaty lightness. The Portugieser Eternal Calendar is complemented with a black alligator leather strap from Italian leather artisan Santoni, with a platinum folding clasp.

Dial it up

A showcase of handcraft techniques honed by expert craftsmen, these novelties represent the best métiers d’art in haute horlogerie

BY QUINCY TAN



The cacophony of bright gemstones and garishly designed novelties gives way to a quieter, more understated elegance in Czapek & Cie’s Promenade Goutte d’Eau. The enchanting, deep marine blue Grand Feu enamel “drips” from the small second subdial at 4.30, rippling out into an undulating concentric texture that subsumes the 38mm dial. When moved, the maison’s masterful manipulation of light and shadow forms the optical illusion of gentle ebbs radiating across the dial face. True to the Promenade collection’s signature asymmetry, this timepiece exudes an exceptionally sophisticated yet dynamic energy.



“It’s time we all reach out for something new.” With the immortal words of the late musician Prince, De Bethune unveils the new DB28XS Purple Rain. A vivaciously violet take on the model, the use of thermal oxidation to achieve a vivid, metallic purple titanium dial does not betray founder Denis Flageollet’s reputation for alchemic innovations. Now with a smaller 39mm case, the random guilloché wave pattern (pioneered by the manufacture) reveals iridescent nuances that resemble a galaxy of amethyst tones, complete with an iconic spattering of white gold stars.



The mighty creature of Chinese mythology has made its home in the iconic X of the Ulysse Nardin Blast Tourbillon Dragon this year. Playing on depth and dynamics, an immaculately sculpted 5N rose gold dragon — engraved and micro-painted entirely by hand in blazing red-orange tones — coils and rises from within the gear train. The legendary beast reaches for its coveted pearl: the skeleton tourbillon with automatic winding micro-rotor movement. In a design that took two years to develop, these majestic symbols represent the pinnacle of expertise in high complications and artistic prowess.



If subtle is not in your vocabulary, you will be glad to know that FP Journe’s Élégante 48mm Gino’s Dream is absolutely teeming with whimsy. Honouring both the late co-founder Gino Cukrowicz’s colourful style as well as the 10th anniversary of the élégante’s production, this Tortue-shaped case achieves the impressive feat of setting curated, baguette-cut ceramic glass gems into titanium to create a dazzling rainbow bezel. The rubber strap, offered in yellow or orange, breathes some sportiness into this delightfully fun novelty.



The Jaeger-LeCoultre Reverso One Precious Flowers is a symphony of artisanal craftsmanship that combines Grand Feu Champlévé enamelling and 24-carat gold-leaf paillonnage to form delicate birds of paradise and vibrant blue hibiscuses. Balancing these intense floral hues, meticulously set brilliant cut diamonds adorn the lugs, gadroons and crown of the Monoface model. Available in three designs, this tropical canvas on the wrist is a love letter to the Reverso’s Art Deco roots.



The new Tourbillon Skelet Sapphire Opal perfectly captures Jaquet Droz’s love for the unique beauty and master craftsmanship of mineral dials. Bathing its suspended movement in an ethereal blue-green light, this shimmering 0.7mm dial features a skeleton flying tourbillon at 12 o’clock balanced by the hour and minute hands at 6 o’clock in a figure-eight design. The translucent 42mm sapphire case and pristine white straps are an exceedingly sleek complement to the glistening chromatic reflections.

“Accuracy is everything when you tame a 25-meter wave”

Richard Limeburner

**- Oceanographer and Deep Sea Recovery Expert
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution**



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Longines

The Swiss watchmaker continues to conquer the watch world with its eminent timepieces



South Korean actress and singer Suzy is Longines' Ambassador of Elegance

Longines Conquest

BY AIREENA AZNI

Once upon a time, nearly 200 years ago in 1832 in the mountainous countryside surrounding Saint-Imier in Bern, Switzerland, Auguste Agassiz and his nephew Ernest Francillon carved their story by establishing a humble watch company. From gathering artisans to producing components at home and assembling watches in a small workshop, Longines has grown to become one of the most venerable watchmakers in the world of haute horlogerie today.

The Swiss brand has been a reliable partner for major global events and competitions including sports, acting as the official timekeeper of the Kentucky Derby and Commonwealth Games. But its expertise in watchmaking extends beyond particular industries. While the brand has a strong presence in watch aviation — Francillon decided to patent their signature winged hourglass logo, first designed in 1867 and recognised by international organisations in 1889 — its creations cover land, sea and the

mountains, made for a range of occasions and wearers from different backgrounds.

The Conquest collection, first released in 1954, is a testament to Longines' design codes comprising timeless styles and classic silhouettes. It is also the first line from the maison that has its name protected by the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property, underscoring its importance in the growth and development of the brand.

The original version of Conquest laid the foundation for the structural face of the watch — clean dial with no date window, arrowhead and slim trapezoid hour markers, a circular silver track surrounding the dial, as well as distinctive script and logo exclusive to Longines.

Many iterations have been introduced to the collection since the inaugural one as trends, technologies and its ever-growing customer base continue to impact the design direction. Fresh colours, materials and mechanisms have been incorporated into the timepiece, securing its place

among the top sporty watches thanks to its classic configurations. It is the ultimate daily companion that takes the wearer through the boardroom to the ballroom.

A new generation of Conquest was unveiled in 2023, featuring three varieties including the 34mm, 41mm and 42mm chronograph. To mark the collection's 70th anniversary, more models have been added this year in a wide choice of colours, materials and sizes: 30mm, 34mm and 38mm for the three-hand versions and 42mm for the chronographs to fit all wrists and suit different tastes or preferences.

The 30mm offers options in silver sunray dial and gilt indices, as well as blue or green sunray dials or in white mother-of-pearl with diamonds as hour markers. The 38mm comes in silver, green, blue, black or champagne sunray. Created as a tool to express one's unique style, both sizes are available in steel or diamond-set steel cases.

Elegant and understated, the dial has external snailing — taking its cue

from the 1954 Conquest — that makes the colour more vibrant and intense. It features 11 applied silver hour markers and a date window at 6 o'clock. The hour markers at 3, 9 and 12 o'clock as well as the polished rhodium-plated hour and minute hands are applied with Super-LumiNova to improve the watch's legibility day and night.

The champagne-coloured 41mm chronograph released last year has been slightly upsized to 42mm and includes a refreshing dial palette. The sub-second at 3 o'clock and the counters at 6 and 9 o'clock complement the ceramic tachymeter bezel in blue or green. While the stainless steel variant is sure to complete a black-tie ensemble, the watch is also offered with new blue, green or black rubber straps featuring hourglass motifs, suitable for those looking to expand their sporty collection.

Each of the watches is forged from stainless steel or bi-material case with alternating polished and satin finishes, ensuring durability and easy maintenance while looking sleek.



They are also water-resistant up to 100m. Inside all the timepieces is the exclusive Longines self-winding mechanical movement. Equipped with a silicon balance spring and new components made of non-magnetic material, the instrument is resistant to magnetic fields, exceeding the ISO 764 standard by a multiple of 10.

A globetrotting diver's companion

HydroConquest was welcomed by Longines in 2007, which makes the collection relatively young. But that is not to say it is inferior in any way compared with other watches that are older. In fact, HydroConquest has garnered attention from experts and aficionados who see the potential in its design, performance and technical innovation and it has become quite an icon of the 2000s.

Created for adventurous individuals, the first model presented at Baselworld 17 years ago was a refreshing take on a dive watch, made in 39mm and 41mm. It was designed with luminous indices and hands as well as a unidirectional bezel with minute scale, all thoughtfully put together inside an aluminium case. It was one of the most sophisticated timepieces for divers, to say the least, as it could be worn for a range of occasions — from sporting events to black-tie ceremonies — because of its classic appearance. Since then, it has established its position as the primary contemporary dive watch collection for the Swiss company.

Over that short period of time, HydroConquest continues to evolve with the introduction of trendy colours, materials and specifications. Its most significant expansion can be seen from last year's launches when Longines successfully upgraded its underwater

watch by incorporating the dual time zone feature. The result was a series of 41mm diameter GMT models with a completely fresh design made for globetrotting divers.

This year, the timepiece has been upsized to 43mm. Available in three brilliant shades including black, blue and green, its face alternates between polished and satin-brushed finishes. The latest HydroConquest GMT's charming appeal is further enhanced by the new-generation stainless steel case. Secured with a screw-down back, it houses the exclusive Longines GMT calibre L844.5, equipped with a silicon balance spring and innovative components made of non-magnetic materials. This movement's resistance to magnetic fields is 10 times greater than the ISO 764 reference standard, ensuring maximum accuracy with a power reserve of up to 72 hours.

For easy reading in all conditions, the hour markers — round at 6 and 9 o'clock, and triangular at 12 o'clock — are applied

with Super-LumiNova, and they are set against the extremely strong sapphire crystal dial smothered in a multilayer anti-reflective coating. Meanwhile, the date window at 3 o'clock is convenient for quick and easy reference. The most important element of the watch that makes it a traveller's top pick is the GMT feature. Fitted with an additional 24-hour hand, the arrow-shaped indicator matches the colour of the dial decals. On the bezel, the 24-hour scale is beautifully displayed in two tones to showcase the transition from day to night. Created with water sports enthusiasts in mind, it is water-resistant up to 300m, complete with a unidirectional ceramic bezel that boasts a luminescent capsule.

The new models are paired with stainless steel bracelets that feature H-shaped links and a double-safety folding clasp with micro-adjustment. Those with an active lifestyle may opt for blue or black rubber straps for a more comfortable fit.



Rebirth of an icon

Every automatic watch has a power reserve, but not all have an indicator for that. This feature remains unusual in contemporary timepieces, and understandably so. The tool is highly useful on the dial of marine chronometers as it guides helmsman to track precise latitude and longitude, which heavily relies on the accuracy of the clock. Thus, a power reserve display is helpful in reminding the crew when it is time to wind the watch. That said, this instrument on wristwatches is practical especially for those who do not perform enough physical activity to drive the ticker as it can alert them when the power is low.

Five years after the brand launched the Conquest in 1954, Longines valiantly branched out to include a one-of-a-kind power reserve indicator for its groundbreaking creation. The icon returns this year in the form of Conquest Heritage Central Power Reserve to commemorate the collection's 70th anniversary.

A striking tribute to the historic model, the power reserve is revealed on two rotating discs at the heart of the dial, a commended design layout that puts Longines on top of the game simply because it is not easy to add the function onto a watch face without disrupting harmony and balance. This unique process, used exclusively by the brand, places the indicator on the central uncoiling disc. The external disc boasts the scale, while the inside is fixed with a baton widened at the top responsible for displaying the watch's remaining running time, graduated from "64" to "0". The disc will rotate when it detects movement by way of turning the crown or moving the wrist. Hence, the aesthetics of the dial change continuously, demonstrating a poetic effect of the passage of time.

Conquest Heritage Central Power Reserve comes in three contemporary colours of champagne, anthracite and black. The dial layout of the 2024 edition is identical to that of the 1959 model. Longines' winged hourglass signature has been taken out from the new watch, which is now adorned with emblematic texts. The positioning of the date window at 12 o'clock balances out everything nicely. As the watch is all about harmony and symmetry, the hour markers are presented in the same shade of the unique skyscraper-style hour and minute hands coated with Super-LumiNova.

The timepiece is powered by the freshly manufactured Longines L896.5 calibre, visible from the transparent screw-down caseback. Equipped with a silicon balance spring and innovative components, this self-winding mechanical movement offers a magnetic resistance 10 times more than the ISO 764 benchmark standard.

The new 38mm steel case, featuring alternating satin-finished and polished surfaces, is topped by a box sapphire crystal with multilayer anti-reflective treatment on both sides. The epitome of timeless elegance, this watch is elegantly fitted with black or grey leather straps.

TOP BRASS TALK

Five leaders of the industry's most eminent watch brands share insights into their company's core releases for 2024

BY EMILY YAP + KONG WAI YENG



Franziska Gsell

Chief marketing officer,
IWC Schaffhausen

In the late 1930s, two merchants from Portugal requested from IWC Schaffhausen a marine precision instrument for the wrist. The result was a watch with an imposing size, simple Arabic numerals, slim feuille hands and a railway-track-style chapter ring. The clean dial and crisp design laid the foundation for the Portugieser collection, which aged like fine wine, evolving into a timeless, modern icon.

This year's novelties revolve around the theme "A Tribute to Eternity" and, to CMO Franziska Gsell, that means celebrating "the essence of timelessness". A range of new colours inspired by the perpetual cycle of day and night dresses a series of revised Portugieser pieces in Horizon Blue, Dune, Obsidian and Silver Moon, but the compelling Eternal Calendar, the collection's highlight, effectively captures the transient, yet enduring, nature of time through the company's first secular calendar.

This feat of engineering allows the watch to account for the three leap-year exceptions for the next 400 years as per the Gregorian calendar. "For me, it is ingenious simplicity



Eternal Calendar

because it takes a wheel with only eight parts to make that happen. For the moon phase, we have an accuracy of 45 million years. We've done the calculations and made models out of it. The previous record was only two million and we're in the midst of applying for a Guinness World Record."

Gsell sees herself and the team as storytellers. To craft the tale of eternity, she enlisted the help of legendary composer and friend of the Brand Hans Zimmer to encapsulate the atmosphere and moods of a passing day in a score to be played at the IWC booth at Watches and Wonders Geneva.

"It's a funny story. When we briefed Hans, I said I'd like to have a piece of music that sounds like time. 'That's easy!' he said, while jokingly reenacting Beethoven's 5th Symphony." While Zimmer was working on the compositions, he and renowned physicist and friend Prof Brian Cox were brought together for a meeting of minds. The unlikely pair exchanged thoughts on the Eternal Calendar and discussed the inextricable relationship between art and science. The unique perspectives shared by Cox as a scientist inspired Zimmer while he composed the grandiose score, which is played once every hour at the booth to emphasise time's fleeting nature.

Those who would like to hear it performed live can look forward to Cox's *Symphonic Horizons* show at the Royal Opera House, London, in August, where he will present the track with Zimmer for the first time.



Bruno Belamich

Co-founder and creative director,
Bell & Ross

Black is back for Bell & Ross, and what better way to execute the inky shade than with a material that amalgamates with it. Impervious to scratches, light and ultra-resistant, ceramic has been a key matter for watchmaking, but it is the first time the Franco-Swiss brand is using the technical material in its urban line, to adorn three new BR 05 models.

Technical ceramic has always been an integral part of the aeronautics and space industries, and is used mainly for manufacturing rocket nose cones and heat shields for spacecrafts. Bell & Ross' whole schtick originates from reinterpreting aircraft instrument panels onto timepieces. So, the recurrent question that co-founder and creative director Bruno Belamich heard all day at the annual fair was: Why now?

"Maybe we should have started this collection with ceramic. We did so with stainless steel because we thought it was the best way for our customer to understand what this watch is for," Belamich explains. The BR 05 was launched as a more versatile option — compared to the BR 01 and BR 03, which are timepieces straight out of a dashboard — that seeks to open up its aviation heritage to a wider audience.

"We thought it was essential to introduce it in black, our colour, by using this high-tech ceramic material, which is the best for black watches. It is



BR 05 Black Ceramic

scratch-resistant, lighter and also very comfortable," Belamich says.

When designing a timepiece, there are key considerations that he often sticks to. "My design principles are readability, reliability, water resistance and so on. If it's not functional, it needs to be comfortable.

"We all know nobody now actually buys a chronograph for the function. Most people who buy chronographs are in for the high-tech functional look of the watch. In the 1960s, watch designers responded to the usefulness of the product, but now they create accessories. Of course, aesthetics were also important in the 1950s and 1960s, but now it is 100% an aesthetic and status choice."

Reconciling functionality and visual appeal is Belamich's job, but the new designs are also devised to evolve the company's existing line of products. These modern timepieces fully take on their status as instrument watches that doff their hat to aeronautic connoisseurs and contemporary aficionados alike.



Sadry Keiser

Chief marketing officer,
Roger Dubuis

At a watch fair suffused with innovations and ingenuity, being coolly offbeat can make one walk taller. Except, Roger Dubuis has loftier ambitions to match it, too. CMO Sadry Keiser, tasked with articulating the brand's hyper horology of marrying expressive aesthetics and boundary-pushing design at once, explains why the watchmaker remains the "troublemaker" of the Richemont group.

Keiser says, "Our creativity and savoir faire have no limits, but that does not mean we ignore the foundation. Take, for example, the Orbis in Machina (showcased this year). Usually, the flying tourbillon sits in the wings, but we've positioned it proudly in the middle. However, it doesn't have any central hands. So, we had to reinvent mechanical solutions to tell time while keeping the design spirit alive.

"We want to bring surprise to the audience — and not 'clients' because I understand how potential buyers may have reservations — every time we put something on the table. To reinterpret haute horlogerie, expressivity through architectural structure needs to change. No rules, our game — that has been our philosophy since day one."



Orbis in Machina

For those who wish to kick-start their Roger Dubuis collection, Keiser recommends the Excalibur Single Flying Tourbillon, a classic that was refreshed with a thinner case with more dramatic clear lines in 2021. Also worth considering is 2024's line-up: namely, Excalibur Sunrise Double Tourbillon, Excalibur Titanium Monotourbillon and Excalibur Dragon Monotourbillon. Each piece in the maison's repertoire, led by remarkable complications, skeletonisation and Poinçon de Genève certification, has been a milestone in itself. How many more rules can this wild child break? How hyper can its watches get?

"Innovation has no starting point; so, we can't really quantify how far we can go. But we're also attuned to what customers want. Maybe they want a long-lasting material or something ergonomic that is associated with métiers d'art. We will listen. There's no point introducing a crazy alloy without any additional value. It's not going to work. What we hope to do is pique the curious with our unique pieces, allow them to get to know our DNA as a serious player in the horological world, and eventually why Roger Dubuis exists."



Jean-Christophe Babin

CEO, Bvlgari

To dissect the Octo Finissimo Ultra COSC, which measures at just 1.7mm — about the same thickness as your typical strand of spaghetti — from a technical standpoint is to overlook the philosophical and business acumen that go into creating this record-setter (again, this is the thinnest *chronometer* watch).



Octo Finissimo Ultra COSC

Its predecessor was controversial, not just for its contentious-looking QR code linked to an NFT, but also for how quickly its claim of being the slimmest-ever watch was overturned by Richard Mille's RM UP-01. Bvlgari CEO Jean-Christophe Babin says being beaten was cause for celebration, as it encouraged healthy competition, but did this "damper" also fuel his pursuit to reclaim the title?

"I must stress that we're not doing it to break another record. It just so happened that we were already working towards a COSC-certified model of the Octo Finissimo Ultra. But we don't go thin for the sake of going thin; it has to be with some kind of additional feature or complication," he says.

The other big flex is that Bvlgari has not just crafted the piece from titanium, but the artisans have also made a platinum alternative that is more difficult to deal with because of its density. The Octo portfolio is not just a vast ground for play but also an ongoing canvas for testing out unprecedented challenges.

The Italian jeweller's head honcho elaborates. "We have seven patents as well as two innovations on this one. First, imagine all the kinds of strict processes we did to ensure its accuracy. Next, it comes with a box that will automatically set the time and keep it wound, so the watch is ready when you pick it up. And that QR code some people aren't happy about? We've put a smaller version on the caseback, through which you can access the data metrics. And that's probably a first in the industry."

In celebration of Serpenti's 75th anniversary, the Roman maison has also called upon its friend and famed Japanese architect Tadao Ando to imagine a new collection. Their third collaboration yielded mosaic and mother-of-pearl dials that reflect the fleeting splendour of nature through the seasons: green aventurine (summer); tiger's eye orange (autumn); icy blue (winter); and sakura pink (spring).

"Aligning the Serpenti with the seasons feels almost instinctive, especially when time represents the end of a cycle and the promise of renewal. Likewise, the serpent sheds its skin and emerges anew; its colours transform. We've always loved the work of Tadao, and what great opportunity this was to restore the relationship of architecture and nature through this partnership," says Babin.

Working with colourful gemstones has expanded Bvlgari's reservoir of ideas.

But is there a challenge the house wishes to attempt?

"Our forte has always been jewellery and ladies' watches. I know there are a lot of those in the market, but are you really designing ladies' watches or watches with reduced sizes? Discerning customers want to invest in true craftsmanship, something they can hold and see. We'll be focusing our efforts on our micro mechanical expertise for women and, for men, we'll still showcase the same engineering [prowess] but not utilise materials that immediately yell 'expensive'."



Akio Naito

President, Seiko Watch Corporation

The Japanese watchmaking elite commanded the attention of collectors at last year's Watches and Wonders with the launch of Tentagraph, the first in-house automatic chronograph movement with an energy-efficient Dual Impulse Escapement that looks like a more refined outing in the Evolution 9, or E9, series. In its third appearance (and being the only Asian exhibitor) at the salon, Grand Seiko has presented yet another understated but no less impressive staging with a hand-wound variant of the E9 as well as a sporty SBGC275 to commemorate the Spring Drive anniversary.

Right after its separation from the Seiko banner in 2017, the independent luxury brand was still considered a "hidden jewel" in the horology world by some, as its watches were sold outside Japan only in 2010. But president of Seiko Watch Corporation Akio Naito is set on communicating the brand's technological superiority and emotional value by expanding its market internationally. The opening of the world's biggest Grand Seiko flagship in Madison Avenue, New York, earlier this year spoke volumes about how the US has accelerated the growth of the company overseas.

"The greatest challenge at the initial stage was to explain the difference between Grand Seiko and Seiko, especially for retailers who perceived the latter as a mid-price brand in the US. Although there were small communities of fans here and there in different cities, Grand Seiko became much more well known when we brought a watchmaker from Japan to convey our compelling rich history and

perform hands-on demonstrations. We're constantly strengthening our engagement with customers by providing exclusive events and content via the GS9 Club, our private membership organisation for Grand Seiko owners."

The Swiss, still carrying scars of the quartz crisis, which they claimed Japanese companies were responsible for, have also been sitting up. Naito believes Grand Seiko, awarded the Chronometry Prize at the 2022 Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève (GPHG) for its Kodo Constant-force Tourbillon which shows a complete portrayal of light and shadow, has earned a rightful seat among esteemed watchmaking greats. The Kodo also got a second act this year: a brighter version inspired by daybreak that complements the first.

"We submitted the Kodo under the tourbillon category at the GPHG, but when our name wasn't called, we were very disappointed," recalls Naito. I remember comforting (movement designer) Takuma Kawauchiya. However, little did we know that we won the Chronometry Prize instead, which rewards the best competing timepiece for its high-precision timekeeping performance. That recognition meant a lot to us, as pursuing accuracy has been at the core of our craft since day one.



Kodo Constant Force Tourbillon SLGT005

"In the new Kodo, the open-work design not only reveals the beauty of hand-finished movement but also expresses how open spaces have been considered to reflect an important Japanese aesthetic that respects the use of empty space. At the end of the day, we want to present to our customers not just a precise mechanism but a functional tool that carries sentimental value."

Grand Seiko has trained up a new generation of artisans to carry out that vision. "We've always emphasised the spirit of *takumi*, the way our watchmakers pour their hearts and entire selves in every detail of the process. Finding the right talent who have the potential to become good watchmakers is very important. They are, after all, pillars of the brand."

E

Louis Vuitton

The luxury maison's 22-year journey in haute horlogerie blends tradition with bold innovation, making it a standout in fine watchmaking



A new trilogy of one-of-a-kind Louis Vuitton timepieces



BY DIAN PASQUINAL KAUR

Louis Vuitton's 22-year journey in haute horlogerie blends tradition with bold innovation, making it a standout in fine watchmaking.

For more than two decades, Louis Vuitton has continually shifted the parameters of watchmaking by building its expertise on a foundation of tradition and innovation. While still a relative newcomer compared with other venerable horological titans, some with histories dating back to the 1700s, the maison has surely carved out a prestigious niche in the modern watchmaking landscape.

Despite the challenges (and scepticism) faced by fashion brands venturing into the world of fine watchmaking, it has consistently impressed with each new timepiece, award and recognition. The Parisian brand's journey in haute horlogerie is marked by the conception of complex movements and bold, daring creative designs.

Fine watchmaking has become a defining expression of its craftsmanship and savoir-faire. At the heart of this mastery is La Fabrique du Temps Louis Vuitton, a manufacture located at Meyrin in Geneva, Switzerland,



the cradle of fine watchmaking. This strategic acquisition has significantly enhanced the maison's capabilities, allowing it to create timepieces that are both technically advanced and aesthetically stunning.

Year after year, the high-end watchmaking novelties from Louis Vuitton bring about the most exquisite timepieces that not only blend heritage and cutting-edge practices but also savoir-faire techniques that are the hallmark of the skilled artisans at the factory. And this is how it remains a prominent player in the world of haute horlogerie.

Rare beauties

Louis Vuitton is turning the page in its métiers d'art story with three limited editions of 20 pieces each, in a tribute to the founder's grandson Gaston-Louis Vuitton, also a distinguished art lover known for collecting precious objects since childhood. The stunning Escale Cabinet of Wonders combines rare and exceptional techniques, celebrating Japanese art and Gaston's collection of *tsuba* (katana sword guards from Japan). Each focuses on animals with deep symbolism, crafted by world-renowned artisans.

Koi are often associated with prosperity and good fortune, and there's nothing like keeping this lucky charm close to your wrist. In the Koi's Garden timepiece, two carp in the most stunning blue hue are gracefully curved on the dial and surrounded by smooth, colourful pebbles. Crafted over 150 hours, each is intricately engraved and kiln-fired for a dark oxide finish, enhancing the three-dimensional form. Hand-polishing reveals the shimmering white-gold scales while a final blue lacquer brings them to life. Smoky quartz and rock crystal pebbles along with diamond-set stones mimic sunlight on water. The white-gold dial plate, hand-engraved with Gaston-Louis Vuitton's monogram at 6 o'clock, completes this exquisite timepiece.

On the dial of Snake's Jungle, a vibrant blue and green serpent rears its head, eyeing a gold and nephrite jade orb at 12 o'clock that forms Gaston-Louis Vuitton's monogram. The bamboo forest is crafted from wood, parchment and straw using marquetry techniques to depict 14 shades of green. This intricate design features 367 pieces, including four varieties of wood, three straw colours and two parchment types, all seamlessly assembled. The serpent required a combination of three exceptionally

demanding techniques: micro-sculpture, engraving and *champlevé* enamelling.

The most meaningful timepiece for the year, the Dragon's Cloud showcases the majestic rose-gold creature clutching a carnelian-set GLV monogram. Unlike Western dragons, the Asian ones symbolise sky and water. The watch features damascening, an inlay technique using metals of contrasting colours for a layered, natural look. The dragon and clouds are engraved and finished with an interplay of polished and matte surfaces for maximum effect. Enamel scales and *paillonné* enamel, containing tiny pieces of gold leaf, elevate the watch's aesthetic while the dragon's eye — a cabochon-cut ruby — glows red. These revived ancient techniques highlight the dragon's power and wisdom and are perfectly captured in this exquisite timepiece.

Following the 2023 Tambour redesign, the Escale gets a fresh visual and mechanical upgrade. The collection retains its iconic round case and hand-polished case horns reminiscent of Louis Vuitton trunks. The bezel now subtly curves into a slightly domed crystal, adding softness and refinement. Lance-shaped hour and minute hands reflect light beautifully. Each model features a crown set with the same stone as the GLV monogram on the dial. With seigaiha wave patterns and hand-braided calf-leather straps, this limited-edition collection rightly epitomises Louis Vuitton's attention to detail and heritage.

V for victory

The Voyager Flying Tourbillon Poinçon de Genève stands at the crossroads of high watchmaking and *métiers d'art*, bringing to life the ancient *plique-à-jour* enamel technique and creating a vibrant stained-glass effect. The maison worked with master enamellers at La Fabrique des Arts to perfect a blue gradient that showcases exceptional transparency and colour.



Crafting this dial is no small feat. The Byzantine-inspired method involves applying enamel to open cells without a backing, requiring quick, precise brushstrokes to avoid air pockets. This results in a dial that captures and reflects light beautifully, featuring a white-gold base with interlocking Vs that are a nod to the brand's heritage.

The watch's avant-garde case, with its unique circle-in-square design, enhances its luminous quality. It houses the hand-wound LV104 calibre, a skeleton movement meticulously finished and assembled with 168 parts and boasts an 80-hour power reserve. The iconic tourbillon's carriage is shaped into a capital V and it rotates every minute, adding a dynamic touch to this timepiece.

The Voyager Flying Tourbillon also proudly bears the Poinçon de Genève seal, a testament to its superior craftsmanship. This seal, visible at 9 o'clock, signifies the highest standards in manufacturing and finishing.

Building dreams

Designed by the renowned architect Frank Gehry, the Tambour Moon Flying Tourbillon Poinçon de Genève Sapphire Frank Gehry is a striking fusion of high watchmaking and architectural genius that emerged from a two-year discussion, inspired by Gehry's work on the breathtaking Louis Vuitton Maison Seoul, South Korea.

His design for the watch dial mirrors the rippling glass structure of the flagship store in Gangnam, evoking the fluid movement of boat sails. To achieve this effect, Gehry used a large-scale photograph of the 2022 Tambour Moon Saphir, crumpling it to conceptualise the new dial. This miniature structure, reminiscent of the Fondation Louis Vuitton's glass ship, really captures an ethereal airiness and depth in a way only the architect can.

Crafting the Tambour Moon from sapphire, one of the hardest materials in the world, was a monumental task. La Fabrique du Temps Louis Vuitton sculpted the case, dial, crown, lugs and hands from a single 200kg block of sapphire. The dial alone required 250 hours of meticulous handwork to achieve the desired textures and light effects. Artisans employed medical tools and diamond powder to craft delicate satin and matte finishes, ensuring the integrity of the sapphire throughout the process.



Tambour Moon Flying Tourbillon Poinçon de Genève Sapphire Frank Gehry

The ultra-thin profile of the dial necessitated manual handling during crafting, allowing artisans to perfect the patterns under binocular microscopes. The result is a dial that enhances the interplay of light, highlighting the luminescent sapphire hands and the intricate tourbillon movement.

The watch showcases Gehry's signature glass sails to great effect; they appear to be propelled by wind. Its transparent case reveals the hand-wound LFT MM05.01 movement, developed entirely in-house by La Fabrique du Temps. This movement, with an 80-hour power reserve, accentuates the watch's intricate chamfering and satin finishes.

The architect's signature on the caseback underscores the uniqueness of this timepiece, personifying Louis Vuitton's boldness and innovation through the lens of a pioneering architect.

Jump for joy

Louis Vuitton introduced Vivienne in 2017 and this charming character quickly became a beloved icon featured in the maison's jewellery, watchmaking, ready-to-wear and leather goods collections. Inspired by the monogram flower, Vivienne's playful spirit has delighted

young and old in various forms, from miniature jewels to whimsical watch dials.

In 2020, she made her debut on a secret watch, followed by her appearance as 12 tiny mascots on the Tambour Spin Time Air in 2021. Two years later, she transformed into a fortune teller, croupier and juggler for the Tambour Slim Jumping Hours series. This character is now continuing her adventures with the Tambour Slim Vivienne Jumping Hours Sakura and Astronaut timepieces.

The Sakura model features a pastel palette, evoking the elegance and fragility of cherry blossoms. Its white-gold case with diamond-studded lugs frames a pink mother-of-pearl dial adorned with iridescent monogram flowers, created using the Holomonogram technique. This involves sand-polishing pearls to achieve high-contrast, transparent motifs. The dial sparkles with inlaid diamonds around the icon's face, surrounded by hand-painted cherry blossoms. Vivienne, dressed in a *kimono*, alternates the display of time between two apertures, with a cherry blossom-tipped hand indicating the minutes.



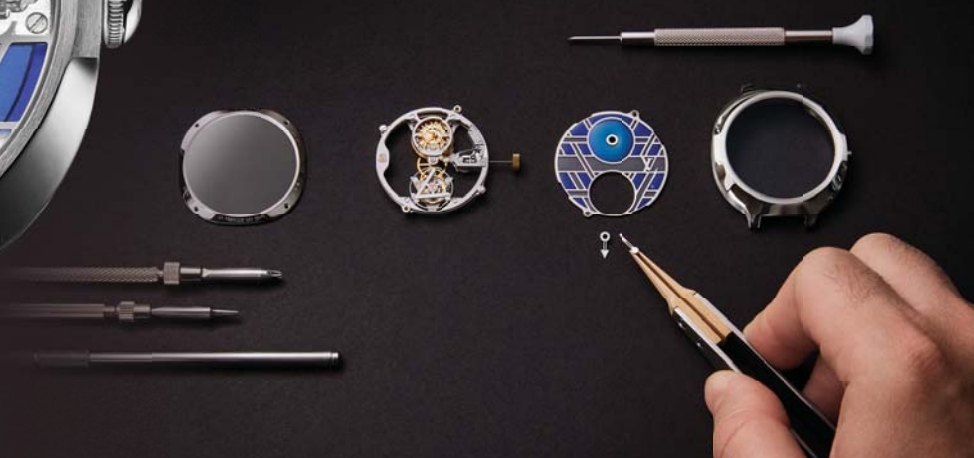
Louis Vuitton's cute mascot Vivienne enjoying cherry blossoms during spring in Japan

For the Astronaut model, the masterminds of the manufacture combined blue mother-of-pearl with aventurine to create a shimmering Milky Way sky. The dial features a constellation of diamond-studded monogram flowers and miniature paintings of rockets and planets. Vivienne appears in an astronaut suit with red and black hand-painted details; her hair finished off with snow-set diamonds. The time jumps from one aperture to the next, with a comet-shaped minute hand orbiting the dial.

Both models flaunt an innovative mechanical jumping hour movement, entirely developed and assembled at La Fabrique du Temps. The unconventional time display alternates between two apertures, with an almost invisible minute hand adding to the mystery. The dial bears Louis Vuitton's new Fab. en Suisse signature, indicating Swiss craftsmanship.

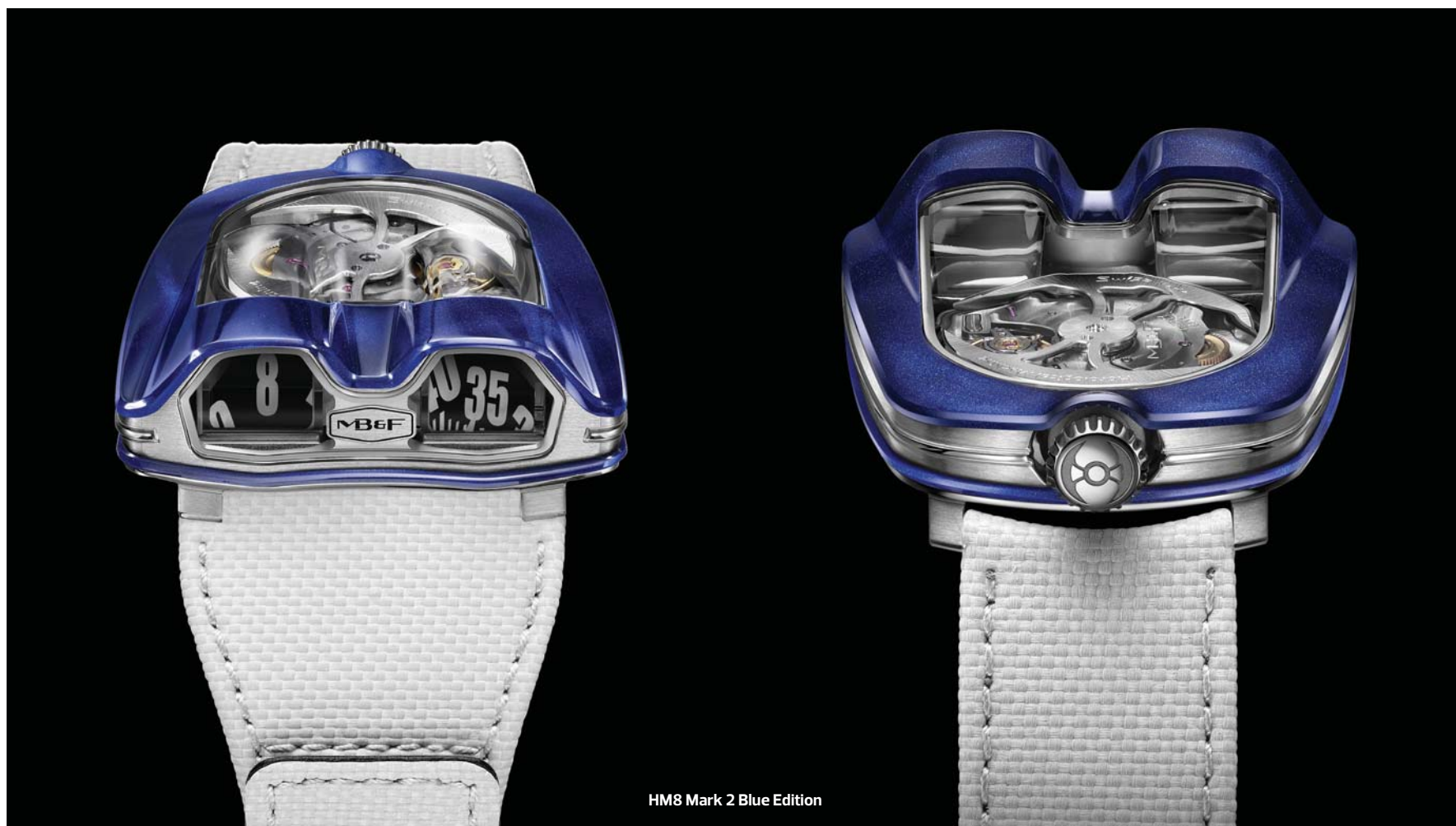
Transparent sapphire crystal backs reveal the LV 180 movement and its rose-gold oscillating weight engraved with monogram flowers, highlighting the maison's expertise in artistic crafts and high watchmaking. The Tambour Slim Vivienne Jumping Hours Sakura and Astronaut perfectly capture the brand's playful and innovative spirit, because it sure knows all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

The *plique-à-jour* enamel dial reveals the intricate skeleton movement with a stunning stained-glass effect



MB&F

The intrepid creations by Maximilian Büsser and his team look out of this world, and the wizardry behind them is equally formidable



BY EMILY YAP

The third instalment of MB&F's automobile-inspired wristwatch presents the HM8 Mark 2 in a dashing new guise. After the success of two iterations last year with white or green body panels, 2024's limited editions feature a glossy sapphire blue CarbonMacrolon that recalls the sheen of the ritzy paintwork of high-end automobiles.

Maximilian Büsser, the company's founder, has always had a close connection with cars, sketching or drawing his own ideas of a snazzy set of wheels since he was a child. Though the watch industry was where he eventually ended up, the dream was to someday merge his two loves.

He found inspiration in the 1976 Amida Digitrend, an innovative jumping hour driver's watch with which you can easily read time through a dashboard-like register when gripping the steering wheel. Building on this idea, MB&F employed a sapphire prism that reflected the jumping hours and sweeping minutes vertically, even though they were actually flushed on top of the movement. To give the numerals an electronic look, the sapphire discs were coated with black metallisation that leaves them clear. Then, Super-LumiNova was added underneath so the

luminescence appears completely flat. Fun fact: The numerals had to be created from back to front as they are reversed in the prism.

This system came to life in the HM5 in 2012, with slats that open and close to allow light into the movement to charge the luminescence. The slats were inspired by the futuristic-looking louvres on the rear window of the Lamborghini Miura, designed by Marcello Gandini. However, the feature was dropped in the following model — the HMX in 2015 — in favour of a sapphire crystal cover that provided a glimpse of the engine beneath. This time, MB&F looked at

the work of another Italian automobile coachbuilder and constructed the HMX with Touring Superleggera's creations pinned on the mood board. The watch was equipped with functional miniature oil caps that could be unscrewed and filled with watchmaking oils.

The HM8 "Can-Am" took on a different approach the following year with a sapphire crystal displaying the spinning rotor. The watch's titanium roll bars pay tribute to the eponymous car's unusual design. The movement used, based on a Girard-Perregaux calibre, provided the base for the HM8 Mark 2 that made its debut last year. For this, its most

distinctive feature is the Zagato-inspired "double bubble" sapphire crystal, said to have reached a complexity that is 30 to 40 times more expensive to produce than a dome sapphire.

Another proprietary aspect of the watch is the "double de-clutch" mechanism for the crown. Instead of being pulled or unscrewed, the crown is released when pressed in and given three-quarters of a turn. Apart from the visual clearance it imparts, it also provides additional security to the system.

For the HM8 Mark 2, the coachwork first came in a choice of white or British racing green CarbonMacrolon, the latter being a limited edition of 33 pieces. Developed specifically for MB&F, CarbonMacrolon is made of an extremely versatile composite material composed of a polymer matrix injected with carbon nanotubes, which add overall strength and rigidity while slashing weight, as it is eight times lighter than steel. The white version was paired with a green CVD rotor and light green minute markers while the other came with a red gold rotor and balance wheel as well as turquoise minute markers.

This year's edition is certainly the most striking. Also limited to 33 units, the HM8 Mark 2 Blue uses virtually the same CarbonMacrolon panels, except that this version incorporates metallic pigments of mineral origin similar



to that of metallic car paint for added sparkle. Completed by a sporty white calfskin strap, it is evidently a timepiece that will please watch aficionados and car enthusiasts alike.

In a flash

In 2022, the company's first-ever chronograph clinched the Aiguille d'Or at Le Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève for its groundbreaking system. Conceived by Stephen McDonnell, watchmaker extraordinaire and one of the original MB&F Friends, the LM Sequential EVO featured two independent yet integrated chronographs that could run separately, simultaneously or have their functions inverted — a profound horological revolution that opened doors to new possibilities for tracking time.

While the watch proved to be a phenomenal achievement, there was a feature that McDonnell and MB&F intended to include but withheld: a flyback function. Initially, the original prototype was designed with the system on the left chronograph and provisions for it were even built into the LM Sequential EVO, but it was extremely complicated to perfect even after months of prototyping and redesign. McDonnell felt it unwise to release the watch with the flyback function when there was still a myriad of questions left unanswered. So the plan was to incorporate it at a later date, after he had deemed the system suitably robust. Two years later, LM Sequential Flyback Platinum is finally seeing the light of day.

When it comes to looks, the new timepiece retains the same layout as its predecessor. The first chronograph has the seconds display at 9 o'clock and the minutes display at 11 o'clock. Mirroring it, the other has the seconds display at 3 o'clock and minutes display at 1 o'clock. Similarly, each of these complications can be activated independently of the other using the start/stop and reset pushers on their respective side of the case. With the new function, the reset pushers also trigger the flyback, which seamlessly stops, resets and restarts the corresponding chronograph.

However, the LM Sequential Flyback Platinum has a fifth pusher, called the Twinverter, located at 9 o'clock. This "magic button" — as McDonnell likes to call it — operates as a binary switch that inverts the current start/stop status of each chronograph. This simply means that if both chronos are stopped, pressing the Twinverter will cause them to start simultaneously. If they are both running, the Twinverter halts the time. And if one is running without the other, the new feature stops the one that is active and starts the latter.

These functions allow the watch to be useful in numerous situations, such as keeping tabs on two different dishes in the oven, tracking the performance of two competitors in a race, timing a chess match and measuring lap times in sporting events. Since the flyback was originally developed for air navigation, pilots can even keep track of their overall flight time on one side while using the other to accurately time each leg.



LM Sequential Flyback Platinum



LM FlyingT Onyx

Such a system was made possible by linking the two independent chronographs with a common escape and oscillator. But as any enthusiast would know, the energy losses would have been substantial and resulted in poor performance. The internal jewelling of the vertical clutches is key to the whole Sequential chronograph in addition to their associated control system. In the LM Sequential Flyback, a great deal of work went into reducing the friction to a minimum so that the flyback would not be blocked when returning to zero. To achieve this, McDonnell incorporated a special jewelled roller into the mechanism. Such a component was unavailable from any supplier at the time, so he created it himself for the first prototype to prove the concept worked. Thanks to these patented solutions, the Sequential

calibre easily outperforms conventional chronographs in terms of energy efficiency and precision.

The new timepiece dons a more refined aesthetic than its sporty, orange-and-black forerunner. A 44mm platinum case secures the open-worked dial on a sky blue base plate, a nod to the flyback's aviation history. Glossy white lacquered rings indicate the important digits while the miniature dial at 6 o'clock, now angled towards the user, visually separates it from the chronograph and allows effortless time-reading. The dressier touches are in line with the stylings of MB&F's more traditional Legacy Machine line, but the wildly complex display, five chronograph pushers and large gears and minute counter wheels at the back definitely make this watch anything but a pretty face.

Seventh heaven

MB&F's days in the sun are marked by some of the world's most absurd ideas coming to fruition. Its unpredictability and prowess to make the seemingly impossible possible is largely credited to an audacious spirit. That said, when you zoom out to the bigger picture, patterns can still be observed despite the brand's volatile nature.

For Büsser and team, creative energy seems to burst in seven-year cycles. It was in the company's seventh year that the Legacy Machine collection was born and the first MAD Gallery opened in Geneva, Switzerland. During the year of its 14th anniversary, MB&F unlocked a new avenue of exploration with the Legacy Machine FlyingT, a horological work of art inspired by and dedicated to women.

The idea struck Büsser when he thought of all the positive feminine figures in his life. "I created MB&F to do what I believe in, making three-dimensional sculptural kinetic art pieces that give the time. I was creating for myself, which is the only way we could have made all these crazy pieces over the years. But at some point, there came a desire to create something for the women in my family. I've been surrounded by their influence all my life, so I gave myself the challenge to do something for them," he says.

Elegance was key; so was an infectious energy that could captivate and command a roomful of people. The composition starts with a round case in gold or platinum with a steeply cambered bezel and slender, elongated lugs, often fully set with diamonds. A high convex sapphire crystal dome elevates the timepiece and beneath it a subtly curved dial plate in various finishes. At the heart of it is the LM FlyingT engine — a cinematic flying tourbillon that beats at a serene rate of 2.5Hz. It projects high above the plane, stopping just short of the apex of the sapphire crystal. Perched atop the tourbillon cage is a single large diamond that pirouettes gracefully above the complication.

The time indication is placed off-centre at the 7 o'clock position, a nod to the numeric theme that runs through the LM FlyingT. The lacquered or gemset dial displays the hours and minutes with a pair of elegant serpentine hands. It is also inclined at a 50° tilt towards the wearer so time can be read only by them, creating an intimate communication that highlights the personal nature of the timepiece.

At the back, the automatic rotor takes the shape of a red gold sun with sculpted rays, providing the watch with four days of power reserve. The solar motif is inspired by the element of life-giving, a source of sustenance all living things gravitate towards.

The LM FlyingT was first launched in 2019 with three white gold watches set with diamonds. These were followed by two limited pieces in 18-carat red gold and platinum, shedding their stones but featuring stunning guilloché dial plates. Since 2020, the model has hosted special gemstone dials every year, with editions such as Lapis Lazuli, Malachite, Tiger Eye and Coeur de Rubis. This year, it is joined by a sophisticated Onyx variant, with the deep black gemstone encased in an 18-carat yellow gold case.

Patek Philippe

The Swiss watchmaker presents a new alliance of functions that simplify time (and date) telling when travelling across different zones



World Time Reference 5330G-001

BY EMILY YAP

Patek Philippe officially heralded the arrival of a new-generation world time at Watches and Wonders 2024, but those who visited the manufacture's Watch Art Grand Exhibition in Tokyo last June would already have had a peek of the limited-edition Reference 5330 in vivid violet and its ingenious date display that synchronises with local time — a world first.

The latest World Time Reference 5330G-001 marks the model's entry into regular production and the perpetuation of the maison's long history of technical innovation. Introduced in the era of the first transatlantic flights and based on the 1930s invention by Genevan watchmaker Louis Cottier, the complication simultaneously shows the current time in each of the 24 major time zones by means of a city and 24-hour disk. Often coupled with dials that feature intricate hand guilloché decorations or Grand Feu cloisonné enamel depicting geographical regions around the world, Patek Philippe's artisanal



The 40mm timepiece has a thickness of 11.57 mm

world time is prized like gold dust and one of its most sought-after models.

In 1999, an exclusive patented system permitted a major improvement in the functionality department. When changing time zones, only a single pressure on a push-piece was required to adjust all the displays (centre hour

hand, city and 24-hour disk) together in one-hour steps without jeopardising the rate accuracy of the minutes and seconds. The mechanism debuted in 2000 with the launch of Reference 5110. Subsequently, the World Time was paired to work with other complex — and no less emblematic — complications,

including the chronograph, as exhibited in the 2016 World Time Chronograph Reference 5930; and minute repeater, which allows the 2017 Grand Complications Reference 5531G-001 White Gold to chime the local time.

When it comes to world-time watches, there has always been a perennial problem with displaying the date. These creations often invariably require the traveller to adjust the time zone and date independently if both the functions are present. What may seem like a simple, small issue actually poses a real technical challenge as the date mechanism needs to be able to function forwards and backwards to accommodate the changing zones.

For a better understanding, it must be noted that the time system we know and depend on today was created in 1884 at the International Meridian Conference in Washington. The decision was made to divide the planet into 24 time zones, each covering 15° of longitude (one hour), taking as a reference point (longitude 0) the Greenwich meridian. Following this system, the time zone



The watch is paired with a blue-grey calf skin strap with denim pattern

in Auckland, New Zealand is situated 12 hours ahead that of Greenwich (UTC +12) and therefore is the first to pass to the following day. On the other end is Midway — an insular atoll of the US in the Pacific Ocean — which is 11 hours behind Greenwich (UTC -11) and the last to pass to the following day.

This occurs when you cross the International Date Line, located around the 180° meridian in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. As such, when one travels westward from Midway to Auckland, the date advances by a day at the IDL. Inversely, when one heads eastward from Auckland to Midway, the date moves back a day at the IDL. However, there is an hour segment every day when the entire planet is on the same date: Between 11am and noon in London, midnight and 1am in Midway and 11pm and midnight in Auckland. During this hour, the world time's date needs to remain stationary even when crossing the IDL into another time zone.

With the need to address contrasting signals at certain time frames, it is understandable that separate

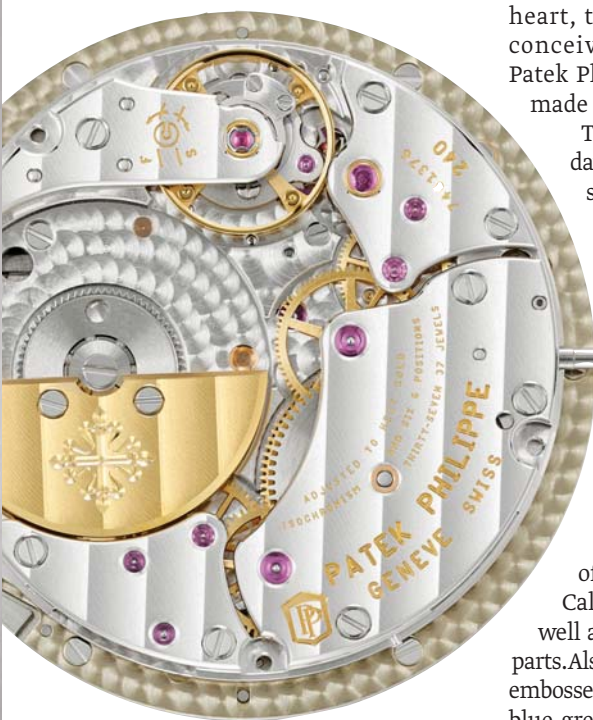
adjustments would drastically lessen the risk of damage and inaccuracy. But Patek Philippe was intent on making the user experience as seamless as possible and tasked its engineers to mechanically couple the date display with the local time without the need for user correction. In this case, accommodating two complications in the same movement was not the only difficulty. They had to be made to interact with each other.

In order to accomplish this, the manufacture developed the new Calibre 240 HU C, featuring an innovative date-display module that alone comprises 70 parts. A patented central differential system with two concentric star-type gear wheels manages the local-time date. When the outer star (of larger diameter and with 62 teeth) turns clockwise, the date hand advances clockwise by one notch. When the inner star (with 31 teeth) turns clockwise, the date hand moves counterclockwise by a notch. When the two stars turn clockwise together (which should imply simultaneously a forward and a backward movement of the date hand because of the common hour shared by all time zones) the differential allows this hand to remain stationary.

Each pressure on the pusher at 10 o'clock therefore serves to adjust, in one-hour increments, not only the centre hour hand, city and 24-hour disk, but henceforth the date in either direction. It is a complex system made simple to operate and a testament to Patek Philippe's creative philosophy of putting the user first. Not to mention, despite its additional mechanism, the new calibre is barely 0.7mm thicker than its predecessor, which allows the 40mm World Time Reference 5330G-001 to retain its elegant profile.

There is another distinguishing feature that sets the new-generation watch apart. A centre hand with a hammer-shaped tip in red lacquer indicates the date printed on a silvery flange at the outermost edge of the dial. To avoid obstructing the other information on the face as well as the elegant blue-grey carbon motif at the heart, the manufacture's engineers conceived — for the first time at Patek Philippe — a transparent hand made of glass.

The 24-hour disk is sundered into day and night zones, identified by a small sun and crescent moon on the respective silver and blue-grey background. A red dot between Auckland and Midway marks the IDL on the city disk. Faceted dauphine-style hands and applied baton-style hour markers in white gold with a luminescent coating indicate local time in the time zone selected at the 12 o'clock position. Turn it around and the sapphire crystal caseback offers a glorious view of the new Calibre 240 HU C's architecture as well as the finishings lavished on its parts. Also new this year is a calf skin strap embossed with a denim motif in the same blue-grey hue. The strap is secured by a white gold fold-over clasp.



Bells + whistles



Patek Philippe introduced its first Alarm Travel Time in 2019 at Baselworld. Fashioned in platinum with an ebony-black dial, the Pilot-style watch takes design cues from the Calatrava Pilot Travel Time, but builds on it with the addition of an alarm complication.

A chiming mechanism that involves hammers and gongs gives mellifluous life to the watch, which emits a pleasing sonnerie when the time is nigh. The alarm can be set in 15-minute increments via the crown at 4 o'clock and viewed through a digital-display double aperture at 12 o'clock with a day/night indicator. The alarm on/off pusher, indicated with a bell motif, is located at 2 o'clock. Powered by the AL 30-660 SC FUS self-winding movement, the Grand Complication unites four patent applications just for the alarm alone.

Two central hour hands direct the Travel Time mechanism, one for local time (solid) and the other for home time (skeletonised). When flitting around the globe, jetsetters can simply adjust the local time hand forwards or backwards in one-hour increments using the 8 or 10 o'clock pushers. Both time zones feature day/night indicators and the date is synchronised with the local-time hand.

This year, Patek Philippe introduced a new two-toned version in rose and white gold. The grey sunburst dial features charcoal grey white-gold-applied numerals and hands, both of which are layered with a luminescent coating. A sapphire crystal caseback — interchangeable with solid rose gold option — enables one to admire the exquisite finishing of the movement and alarm hammer. And if you did not know, this is the only Patek Philippe chiming watch with a water-resistant case.

The new Reference 5520RG-001 is paired with a chestnut calf skin leather strap with contrasting cream stitching and secured by a rose gold clevis prong buckle reserved only for the Pilot-style models.



Phenomenal pieces

These extraordinary timekeepers are thoughtfully invented to tell the hours and minutes in a unique manner

BY AIREENA AZNI

Chanel has done it again at Watches and Wonders this year, creating a buzz with the introduction of Musical Clock Couture Workshop, which was immediately snapped up at the fair. The house is known for its unwavering devotion towards founder Gabrielle Chanel, and this beautiful centrepiece draws inspiration from her profession as fashion designer and dressmaker. Reminiscent of the lively atmosphere at Mademoiselle's rue Cambon studio, it features five couture mannequins, each forged from natural aluminium ceramic trimmed with black leather ribbons and decorated with an 18-carat yellow gold diamond brooch set. Proudly standing beneath a tassel diamond chandelier, they perform a choreography to the song *My Woman* by South African-British singer Al Bowly, one of Mademoiselle's personal favourites. The base is made up of 245 pieces of onyx and the winding key is mounted on a gold chain punctuated with diamonds. Hours and minutes are thoughtfully displayed on a rotating tape measure on this work of art that combines a clock, music box and automaton.



Apparition des Baies automaton



Bouton d'Or automaton

No one does it like **Van Cleef & Arpels** when it comes to translating flora and fauna into beautiful precious objects. This year, the juggernaut unveils two bewitching automatons that pay tribute to nature in motion, manufactured in collaboration with François Junod, an automaton maker in Sainte-Croix, Switzerland.

Apparition des Baies in particular is different from the brand's past automata, which mostly revealed their magic by opening up like blooming flowers. Instead, it has been engineered with new mechanisms that allow every petal to rotate as the luxuriant dome conceals its secret, exposing a lifelike bird made from white gold, diamond and sapphire spreading its wings majestically. The exterior is composed of 126 overlapping and intertwined leaves, each boasting subtle gradations of green. Eight layers of lacquer were applied on all pieces using airbrush technique. A dulcet melody rings to complete this poetic tableau.

Another masterpiece that invites everyone on a fairy-tale journey is Bouton d'Or. The gleaming and colourful gold bouquet protecting a fairy, whose face is constructed from a rose-cut diamond, takes inspiration from the maison's 1936 "paillette" motif. The design, reminiscent of sequins used in couture, has been reinterpreted in varying shapes and sizes, and used as the structural foundation of the automaton. Each of the 684 discs is lacquered in multiple layers using airbrush and traditional methods by artisans and experts from different fields who came together for the sole purpose of creating perfection.



It takes a village to bring **Urwerk**'s latest groundbreaking creation to life. Standing at a whopping 170cm and weighing 20kg, the SpaceTime Blade depicts the time it takes for earth to travel the 940 million kilometres around the sun in hours, minutes and seconds via glowing orange numbers. This oeuvre d'art is a result of the collaboration between the independent watchmaker and renowned Nixie tube artist Dalibor Farny. Housing eight vertical Nixie bulbs — each made up of 88 parts — the tall structure displays data at a mind-blowing rate of 500 times per second. Inspired by instruments such as telescopes, microscopes, clocks and other measuring tools, this piece also boasts elements of science fiction. Those in the know will most likely be reminded of the lightsaber from the universally celebrated *Star Wars* franchise. The uncanny similarity is something that fans of the watchmaker as well as the film series can appreciate. This extraordinary timekeeper is limited to 33 pieces.



CARRERA

CHASING DREAMS SINCE 1963



Seiko

The brand looks ahead with a classic remake and limited-edition release to mark its centenary



King Seiko KS1969

BY TAN GIM EAN

Culture is embedded in every Seiko timepiece, whether it is the shape of a dial, its colour or texture, the curve of a case, bracelets or hands. Logic meets aesthetics at each step of the creative process as craftsmen master machine and mechanics, without losing sight of what is refined and beautiful.

“Always one step ahead of the rest” — brand founder Kintaro Hattori’s philosophy — has kept the wheels of innovation turning at the company established in 1881. Sometimes, staying ahead can mean pausing to relook a vintage design for ideas to fashion something different.

A new series of King Seiko dress watches with silver, purple and green dials is one such inspiration. It revives a classic design by retaining the curved silhouette of the 45KCM from 1969 and joins the main collection. But there are fresh features that speak to the times.

Comfort is crucial for those who need a watch on hand. Shorter links on the new bracelet and the slim angular case ensure

that, without diminishing these shine of the debutants. In fact, mirror-polishing and brushed finishing give the multi-row bracelet a quiet sparkle when it reflects light, catching the eye of the beholder.

Svelte is a buzzword in modern watchmaking and the slimline Calibre 6L35, which powers the latest King Seiko, takes care of that. The watches measure 39.4mm in diameter and are 9.9mm thick. This sits well with the rounded box-shaped sapphire crystal with anti-reflective coating on the inner surface and a reduced height, the latter another point of attraction.

The pattern of the series’ multi-faceted index at 12 o’clock evokes feathers used to fletch traditional Japanese arrows. It is a small but fitting detail for an accessory that will glide under shirtsleeves. The hour and minute hands are cut on three sides, adding radiance to the face, from whichever angle you look.

Colours are never dabs of paint on a canvas for the truly artistic. Seiko knows this; as such, each shade it uses for its dials carries a meaning deeper than what is on the surface. A primary



The original King Seiko

concern is to hold strongly to tradition while concocting fresh tints that appeal to contemporary consumers.

The silver dial of the King Seiko update is textured to evoke Tokyo’s urban landscape. This collection was born in the city in 1961, following which there were different versions of its case shape

and design from the late 1960s through the 1970s.

Purple denotes royalty and has been associated with luxury, power, wealth and wisdom from ancient times. In Japan, “Edo purple” was cherished during the so-named period, between 1603 and 1868, when it was ruled by the Tokugawa shoguns. Seiko takes the cue from that era by making its dial in the image of that hue.

Greenery Day, a Japanese national holiday observed every May 4, celebrates nature. Tokyo has swathes of green lungs filled with forests, fountains, lakes, shrines and, of course, serene Zen gardens where water, rocks and plants are laid out following curves and lines in harmony with their surroundings. With the increasing focus on the environment worldwide, how appropriate to have a King Seiko dial with a gradation that captures the capital’s natural greenery.

After its founding in 1881, Seiko brought out different products under various names. In 1924, it launched its first wristwatch with “Seiko” on



King Seiko KS1969:
SJE111J1 (purple dial)



The 100th anniversary King Seiko
KS1969 with blue-green dial

the dial, marking the birth of the brand. One hundred years on, it has released a limited-edition timepiece to commemorate this mile-stone anniversary.

With its penchant for connecting past and present, how better to celebrate a century of creativity than with a watch depicting a dragon, the animal sign for 2024 in the Japanese zodiac.

The Seiko Brand 100th Anniversary King Seiko KS1969 embraces the old in the new. It sports the classic tonneau shape of the model from the late 1960s and the same specifications as the three dress watches that are now part of the main collection. It retains the slim silhouette, courtesy of the Calibre 6L35, and is as comfortable on the wrist as the original that led to its creation.

In many Asian cultures, the dragon signifies good fortune and prosperity. Seiko rides on that symbolism with a light blue-green dial covered with a textured pattern inspired by the scales of the mythical creature. Just as it rises and soars, the company is poised to do the same in the next 100 years. **E**



Seiko Presage Classic Series

When artistry + mastery meet

Intricately textured curved dials with colours and patterns drawn from traditional Japanese crafts form the core of the Seiko Presage Classic Series. Five models make their debut this year with two different dial configurations and sets of functions. Together, they demonstrate the gentle side of Japanese design and exacting mechanical watchmaking processes.

Imagine touching lustrous silk or raw silk yarn. The dial of the three-hand-with-date watch is inspired by the former and the radial patterns on the open heart express the feel of the latter. The tops of the indices curve and the minute and second hands bend slightly towards the markers, evoking motion, as the curved dials catch and reflect ambient light, enhancing their looks.

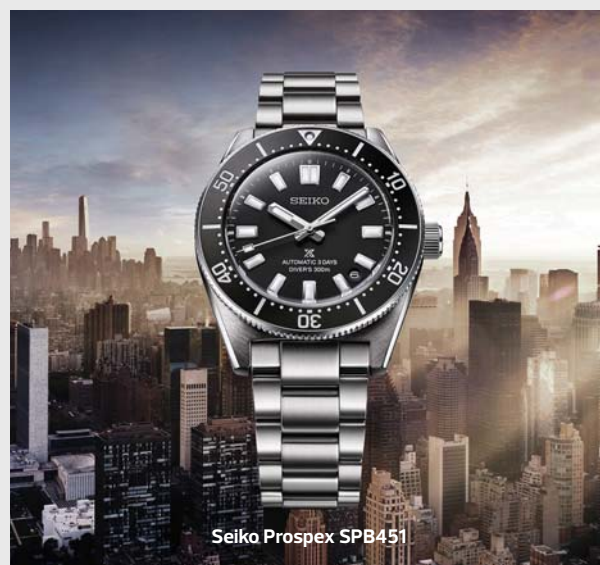
Each watch face expresses a traditional Japanese colour that is warm and easy on the eye: *shiro-iro*, the hue of unbleached natural fabric; *sensaicha*, a dark brownish-green fashionable during the Edo Period; *araigaki*, a washed and bleached persimmon shade; and *sumi-iro*, a greyish black originally used in monks' garments.

Calibre 6R55 powers the three-hand with date creations, while Calibre 6R5J drives the open-heart models. These automatic in-house movements can run for 72 hours each and are visible through an exhibition caseback.

A multi-row bracelet, for which the 1970s was a muse, has a curved top surface and fewer contact points — features that make it look good and feel easy on the wrist.

New models to dive for

Comfort boosts confidence as you plumb the depths of the ocean with a watch on hand. Seiko's Prospex collection also counts safety, reliability and ease of use as its credentials. Model SPB143, introduced in 2020, is water-resistant up to 200m, with 70 hours



Seiko Prospex SPB451



Seiko Prospex 1965 Heritage Diver's Special Edition SPB455

of power reserve. It is lauded for its functionality and vintage-style design inspired by the brand's original diver's watch, the 62MAS.

Four years on, the SPB143 is the inspiration for a range equipped with enhanced design, technology and construction. Two watches with black and blue dials have joined the main Prospex collection. A third, a special-edition timepiece to toast the 100th anniversary of the Seiko brand, has gold accents befitting the grand occasion.

Calibre 6R55 powers the Prospex line, whose water resistance has been increased to 300m, a first for the non-saturation diver's watches. Its date window has been shifted from 3 o'clock to between 4 and 5 o'clock, allowing for a more symmetrical design and space for Lumibrite, which is brighter and lasts longer than conventional luminous paints.

Each piece is 40mm in diameter and 13mm thick, with a stainless steel bezel and an aluminium insert that makes for a slim, classic look. Laser-engraved markings and numerals on the bezel erase the worry of wear over time and a new bracelet with shorter links and a smaller clasp ensures the watch conforms to the wearer's wrist.

Prospex marks the brand's centenary with a charcoal-grey-coloured dial jazzed up with gold accents. This special-edition watch has an additional strap made entirely of recycled plastic bottles and fashioned in the style of *seichu*, a traditional Japanese braiding technique used to make *obijime*, the decorative cord that holds a kimono sash in place.

On top of texture and sheen, the strap's tensile strength is almost four times that of the regular types made of fabric. This is Seiko keeping one step ahead of the rest, with one hand each on tradition and technology.

Tag Heuer

Dedicated to racing fans, the new Tag Heuer Carrera Chronograph x Porsche 963 captures the spirit of speed and precision in every detail

BY DIAN PASQUINAL KAUR

The worlds of timekeeping and motorsport have long been intertwined, driven by a shared dedication to precision, performance and innovation. This connection has forged a relationship that continues to push the boundaries of both industries, resulting in remarkable advancements and iconic collaborations.

Motorsport, with its emphasis on speed, accuracy and endurance, demands precision. Every fraction of a second counts, whether it's a race car hurtling down a straightaway or navigating a complex series of turns. This need for exact timing has led to a partnership with the watchmaking industry, where accuracy is not just a goal but an art form. The meticulous craftsmanship and technological advancements in horology are the perfect complement to the high-stakes world of racing.

Enduring spirit

The Tag Heuer Carrera Chronograph x Porsche 963 is a fusion of automotive and horological prowess. This extraordinary new watch is a celebration of a storied partnership rooted in the high-octane world of endurance racing.

For almost seven decades, Tag Heuer and Porsche have cultivated a relationship characterised by shared values and a passion for performance. Both brands have made significant contributions to motorsport, and their collaboration is a natural extension of mutual respect and admiration for each other.

The origins of this iconic timepiece can be traced back to the Carrera Panamericana, one of the most treacherous challenges in the world. The over 2,000-mile road race was initially organised in 1950 to showcase the opening of the Mexican stretch of the Panamerican Highway and it attracted drivers from around the world. It is not called one of the most dangerous races in the world for nothing, claiming 27 lives during the five years it was held (1950 to 1954), usually with only a third of the drivers finishing the race.

Porsche's triumph at this race in 1954 led to its most powerful engines being christened Carrera. Simultaneously, Jack Heuer, inspired by the race's evocative name, introduced the Carrera chronograph in 1963 after learning about the race from the Rodriguez brothers at the Sebring racetrack.

The intertwined histories of motorsport and watchmaking are further cemented by Tag Heuer's connection to France's 24 Hours of Le Mans, one of the most prestigious endurance races held globally.



This statement watch features a large case paired with an openworked dial that evokes the framework of the iconic Porsche 963



With a great passion for cars and racing as well as his participation in the 24 Hours of Le Mans, Dempsey perfectly embodies the spirit of this collaboration

Porsche, meanwhile, has an illustrious record at Le Mans, with 19 overall wins. That makes it the most successful manufacturer since the race's inception in 1923. The Porsche 963, developed under the LMDh (Le Mans Daytona Hybrid) regulations, is a testament to its pursuit of innovation.

This car, based on a Multimatic chassis and equipped with a cutting-edge combustion engine capable of running on renewable fuels, exemplifies the German marque's commitment to sustainability and performance. The Porsche 963 has already claimed victories at some of the world's most renowned tracks, reinforcing its status as the pinnacle of engineering excellence.

And to commemorate the spirit of endurance racing, the Swiss luxury watchmaker has introduced the Tag Heuer Carrera Chronograph x Porsche 963. This watch is not just a timepiece; it is a symbol of the drive for perfection and celebration of the illustrious history of the event.

Julien Tornare, CEO of TAG Heuer, expressed pride in this collaboration, highlighting the watch's embodiment

of design excellence, endurance and the spirit of pushing beyond limits.

"In celebration of Porsche's racing successes, we are extremely proud to have worked on such a timepiece with our partner. We particularly look forward to Porsche's performance this year and wish all the best to the team on the racetracks."



Note the intricate detail of the Porsche logo rendered in 3D on the side of the steel case

Fronting the campaign is brand ambassador and American actor Patrick Dempsey, who not only owns an extensive sports and vintage car collection but also competed in prestigious events such as the Rolex 24 at Daytona sports car races and the Tecate Score Baja 1000 off-road race. After making his debut at the 2009 24 Hours of

Le Mans, the *Grey's Anatomy* star returned to France four years later and competed in a Porsche 997 GT3 RSR at the 2013 endurance race.

His deep passion for both motorsport and fine timepieces makes him the perfect embodiment of this collaboration's spirit.

Two icons, one special edition

Limited to 963 pieces, the Tag Heuer Carrera Chronograph x Porsche 963 is a true collector's item. Each element of the watch has been designed to reflect the essence of racing and the Stuttgart-based carmaker's heritage. The subdials feature four Super-LumiNova blocks, inspired by Porsche's LED light design on the modern-day 911 model. These SLN blocks, along with the SLN-coated date revealer, illuminate in the dark, enhancing the aesthetics and functionality of the watch. This ensures exceptional legibility, a crucial feature in the endurance racing context.

The large sports watch also features red indices at the 4 o'clock position to symbolise the adrenaline at a race countdown. The striking skeleton dial, with tubular shapes reminiscent of Porsche's racing car chassis, and the bezel made from forged carbon mirror the lightweight, high-performance components of the Porsche 963.

The openworked dial is a true marvel of design and craftsmanship. Its intricate structure reveals the inner workings of the watch, offering a glimpse into the complex mechanics that drive its precise timekeeping.

At the heart of this timepiece is the in-house TH20-00 movement, also known as Heuer-02, where together with its personalised red column wheel, it truly showcases the technical prowess of Tag Heuer. The vertical position of the chronograph mechanism's coupling ensures smooth and "jump-free" actuation, akin to the systems in cars that connect the engine's flywheel with the transmission.

The watch's rubber strap is inspired by the NACA-style low-drag air inlets, commonly seen on Porsche race cars. Adorned in its iconic motorsport colours — white, red and black — this watch is a vivid reminder of the deep-rooted connection between Tag Heuer and Porsche.

Fans of the carmaker will appreciate the numerous Porsche-inspired details in the special chronograph. The bezel features a luminescent Porsche logo, ensuring legibility in the dark. The strap decor showcases the 963 emblem and the watch incorporates its iconic steering wheel motif in the oscillating mass. A 3D logo on the side of the steel case underscores attention to detail and the integration of car manufacturer-inspired elements.

Each watch is individually numbered XXX/963 and comes in dedicated packaging, complete with a travel pouch and mention of its limited-edition status. This timepiece is more than a watch; it is a celebration of the synergy between timekeeping and motorsport, and honours their shared history and relentless drive towards the future. **E**

Tudor

Fine-tuned to the precise requirements of professionals, these tool watches are the perfect companion for serious enthusiasts in the sporting world



Pelagos FxD

BY EMILY YAP

There is a reason the Tudor Pelagos has garnered such a strong fan base which, by the way, includes ambassador and football legend David Beckham, who often sports his special Inter Miami edition on the field.

It is a magnificent example of a tool watch, showcasing all the steadfast, reliable and no-nonsense features that technical divers and modern survivalists value and desire in an aquatic companion. Built to withstand the most demanding ocean expeditions, the Pelagos boasts the ability to descend to a depth of 500m while the timepiece's chic and versatile aesthetic grants it an equally fitting place on the wrists of urban city slickers.

The spirit of Pelagos remains with the Pelagos FxD references, which were taken one step further by fine-tuning their performance requirements and specifications precisely for professionals. You may be wondering what the FxD means — it refers to the fixed (FxD) strap bars directly machined to the body.



As early as the mid-1950s, Tudor diving watches were being tested and evaluated by a number of outfits within the US Navy and eventually adopted by their various units. These were famously used by the SEAL teams all the way up to the late 1980s,

serving sailors, Underwater demolition teams, Seabees and dive school instructors. The Pelagos FxD is the spiritual successor of those watches, a modern take on the “milsb” (short for military submariner) of yesteryear.

Visually, it most resembles the 1960s Tudor Oyster Prince Submariner Ref 7016, but one can find details inspired by Tudor watches from other generations as well. Its black dial is punctuated by square hour markers and angular Snowflake hands, introduced by the brand in 1969 to increase visibility and the intensity of the luminescence in poor light conditions. A unidirectional rotating bezel with a sand-blasted ceramic insert rings the 42mm titanium case, entirely satin-brushed in favour of a matte effect that limits light reflection.

The watch is waterproof to 200m, which begs the question: If it is meant for the pros, why not retain the 500m? At present, the world record for the deepest scuba dive stands at 332.35m. The extreme risks associated with the accomplishment make it a feat that even advanced divers themselves do not attempt. Moreover, saturation divers rarely go deeper than 100m nowadays, making 200m more than sufficient.

This also explains the absence of the helium escape valve — present in the

regular Pelagos — which essentially permits gas molecules to exit the watch case in a safe and controlled manner during the decompression stage of a saturated dive. By retaining only the essentials and optimising them, the Pelagos FXD can better serve the exact utilitarian needs of modern professionals. Besides, keeping it trim permits a slimmer profile (12.75mm as opposed to the 14.3mm-thick Pelagos), which is always welcome.

Shaped as an extension of the lugs, they are key to the model's characteristic silhouette. Feeding through the bars is a one-piece forest green fabric strap with red threading down the centre. The flagship configuration comes with a self-gripping fastening system — a nod to the way the US Navy used to secure their watches. However, an additional black one-piece rubber strap, embossed with a fabric motif, provides a fresh take on the classic look.

The single-piece fabric strap has been one of Tudor's hallmark offerings since its introduction in 2010. They are woven in France on 19th-century Jacquard looms by the Julien Faure company, whose manufacturing quality is evidenced by the sturdiness and comfort of the straps on the wrist.

Driving the Pelagos FXD is the manufacture's Calibre MT5602, which displays the hours, minutes and seconds functions. The rotor in tungsten monobloc is openworked and satin-brushed with sand-blasted details while its bridges and mainplate have alternate sand-blasted, polished and lasered decorations. It is a COSC-certified chronometer but its performance goes beyond the -4 and +6 seconds standard of the independent institute. Tudor insists on maintaining its variation between -2 and +4 when it is completely assembled. It is also nice to know that the power reserve of the MT5602 is "weekend-proof", that is, about 70 hours. This means the wearer will not need to wind the watch come Monday morning if they take it off Friday night.

Set sail

When Tudor and Alinghi Red Bull Racing established their partnership two years ago, it marked the watchmaker's first foray into the world of competitive yacht racing. In this centuries-old sport, victory comes by fusing a resolutely daring human spirit with the most cutting-edge technology. Staying true to this philosophy, the manufacture came up with two Pelagos FXD "Alinghi Red Bull Racing Edition" models that christened a handful of other firsts for the brand.

The Alinghi Red Bull Racing AC75 hydrofoil racing yacht represents the very best in maritime engineering, utilising a proprietary blend of carbon, titanium and stainless steel to give shape to a hull that leaps out of the water at high speed. The same pursuit of technical mastery is applied to the Pelagos FXD models, combining a carbon composite material — never before used by Tudor — with titanium and stainless steel for the bezel, crown, direct-action pushers and caseback, engraved with the sailing team's logo to further enhance the collaboration.



Pelagos FXD 'Alinghi Red Bull Racing Edition'

As with the earlier Pelagos FXD, the new timepieces come with a bidirectional 120-notch rotatable bezel filled with Super-LumiNova Grade X1, a luminous material with a performance increase of up to 60% after two hours compared to standard norms. The bezel is graduated from 60 to 0, to allow for easy tracking of countdowns, a key moment before the start of a regatta. The time-only reference retains the original model's 42mm case measurement, but the second, larger by a millimetre, houses a chronograph calibre — this is the first time the complication is integrated into a fixed-strap bars case.

Both the matte dials sport the same bluish hue of the AC75's hull with red accents to emphasise the vessel's aesthetics. On the 45° angled rehaut, between 10 and 2 o'clock, a subtle "Alinghi Red Bull Racing" mention overarches the dial's layout on the chronograph, powered by the high-performance MT5813 movement. This calibre is derived from the Breitling 01 chronograph, with a high-precision regulating organ developed by Tudor.

Made up of a 22mm "Team Blue" jacquard-woven ribbon with red

accents and a titanium "D" buckle with a self-gripping fastening system, the accompanying single-piece fabric strap can adapt to different wrist sizes.

Conquering all terrains

The collection continues its evolution with the Pelagos FXD Chrono "Cycling Edition", taking the tool watch out of the ocean to the great outdoors.

The new timepiece is specifically engineered for riders of the Tudor Pro Cycling Team, which comprises 41 participants from 11 countries competing at the highest level of road racing. Guided by two-time Olympic medalist Fabian Cancellara, the formidable group is made up of a UCI Pro and an under-23 team.

Professional cycling is as much of a challenge for the mind as it is for the body. The brief given required the watch to be able to stand up to the extreme demands of the sport while allowing

the riders to operate it easily when they are pushing the limits. Characterised by their lightness, high rigidity and excellent damping properties, carbon fibre bikes are by far the fastest vehicles for the sport, the reason Tudor opted for carbon composite for the 43mm case. Implemented together with titanium elements, namely the screw-down crown and pushers, these materials help make the tool necessarily resilient to face unpredictable conditions presented by cycling.

Another vital point to consider is functionality. A chronograph's tachymeter scale is typically calibrated to the speeds associated with motorsport, but with the new timepiece, the scale is tailored to suit the speed cyclists can sustain. The recalibrated tachymeter is printed on the rehaut, angled at 45° so it can be read at a glance, around the circumference of the matte black dial. Red accents pay tribute to the team's and brand's signature hue while contrasting white markers heighten legibility. And of course, the hallmark square hour markers and Snowflake hands are here to stay.

The same manufacture's Calibre MT5813 keeps the high-performance timepiece ticking. In keeping with Tudor's quality ethos, it presents extraordinary robustness and reliability, guaranteed by the array of extreme tests applied to all the Swiss watchmaker's products.

Tudor and its French partner Julien Faure kept it simple with the strap. A 22mm solid black jacquard-woven technical fabric cinches the watch to the wrist and secures it with a traditional buckle.



Pelagos FXD Chrono 'Cycling Edition'



Hourly escapades

Beyond innovative tickers, modern architecture inspired by watchmaking, swanky stays and culinary treats await those visiting the home of horology

BY KONG WAI YENG

FP JOURNE LE RESTAURANT



Famed independent watchmaker and avid gourmand François-Paul Journe, whose watches are enjoying record-breaking (read: eye-watering) prices at auctions, has embarked on a second act as restaurateur. His eponymous dining venture FP Journe Le Restaurant partners Michelin-starred chef Dominique Gauthier, who was with Le Chat-Botté at the Hotel Beau-Rivage for the past three decades.

Fittingly, Journe's restaurant is located on a famous watchmaking street in Geneva: Rue du Rhône, where Patek Philippe, Jaeger-LeCoultre, Omega and Bvlgari set up their flagship boutiques or offices. The restaurant, aligned with the Métropole Hotel, was formerly a brasserie called Bavaria, which became the stamm (or favourite watering hole) for heads of state who were members of the League of Nations. The oak panelling and large mirrors from 1942 remain largely intact, except for the décor, to which Journe added a few horological touches: Walls are adorned with technical drawings of movements; a 17th-century astronomical clock signed "Giovanni Brugell Venetia" anchors the dining room; and the tables are named after famous horology greats such as Abraham-Louis Breguet, Christiaan Huygens and Hans Wilsdorf. Even the handles of the knives are transparent and feature watchmaking gears and parts.

Here, Gauthier serves his signature Mediterranean-leaning cuisine that made Le Chat-Botté famous, including the scampi in *kadaïf* as well as beef from Simmental with Madagascar wild pepper and grilled shallots. If you are pressed for time or making a pit stop in Geneva with fellow watch enthusiasts, opt for the three-course set lunch at just CHF65 (RM340) — this will be a meal to remember.

PATEK PHILIPPE MUSEUM



For the modern horophile visiting the museum, perhaps the only thing more thrilling than wearing a Patek Philippe is the honour of having another discerning enthusiast discuss the watchmaker's storied heritage at length. Caretakers of the Patek Philippe Museum have seen many happy encounters like this at its premises, which serve as a starting point for the uninitiated to discover five centuries of horological history.

To really appreciate the exhibits here is to brush off the dusty stereotypes associated with a museum. Decorative arts traditionally aligned with watchmaking such as engraving, enamelling, gem setting and guilloché are displayed in their full glory.

The space is divided into two sections: The Antiques Collection offers a fascinating presentation of Genevois, Swiss and European watches and enamels dating from the 16th to the early 19th century, including a great number of masterpieces that have left their mark on the history of horology. For the Patek Philippe Collection, revel in an evocative showcase of watches designed and created by the maison since its foundation in 1839 up to the present.

Built in 2001, the museum is also a project close to honorary president Philippe Stern's heart. Furthermore, it is representative of the Stern family's unparalleled expertise and passion — nurtured over 180 years — in striving to deliver the perfect chime and complication.

BREITLING KITCHEN



When Breitling opened its largest flagship store in the trendy area of South Korea's Hannam district, customers probably did not expect it to come with a café on the first floor and a restaurant above it too. The latter, named Breitling Kitchen, provided different seating zones themed according to air, sea and land. Loyal followers of the brand who have been wanting to dine in a space inspired by the "three universes that Breitling watches were developed for" can now enjoy it in Geneva too.

As a nod to the watchmaker's atelier, this second Breitling Kitchen outpost is decked out with a design that resembles an industrial loft, complete with exposed brick walls and workshop-style windows. Colombian-French star chef Juan Arbeláez has been enlisted to helm the kitchen, which delivers modern street food that gives fresh and locally sourced ingredients top billing. Look out for authentic Mexican tacos, Peruvian-style ceviche Tartare de Daurade and the must-try Guacalogico, a guacamole that substitutes local broccoli for avocados.

In the drinks department, cocktails are grouped according to the watchmaker's DNA, with names like "Cloud", which calls for lemongrass-infused cachaça, kiwi and a Thai basil emulsion, or "Rain Forest", a passion fruit and grapefruit juice mocktail finished with a touch of caramel. If you only need a quick caffeine fix, order the coffee or some pastries to go.

CEO Georges Kern is excited for guests to drop by the two-storey restaurant, just next to the Breitling boutique on Geneva's fashionable Quai de Bergues waterfront promenade.

"We're taking our values to the next level by creating social spaces where customers can experience the casual, inclusive and sustainable luxury that Breitling is known for," he says.

HÔTEL DES HORLOGERS



Mention Hôtel des Horlogers and locals or taxi drivers will usually draw a blank. But say "AP Hotel", and they may just be able to point you in the right direction. To be fair, Audemars Piguet bought the former Hôtel de France, which closed in 2000, and rebranded it in 2005 as Hôtel des Horlogers (French for Watchmakers Hotel). It was rebuilt in 2016 and reopened two years ago as a 50-room luxury boutique stay.

Situated next to the Audemars Piguet headquarters in Le Brassus, and down the street from its manufacture and museum, the hotel exudes minimalism with clean, simple lines that had been carefully calibrated to make Vallée de Joux the star. Designed by global architecture firm Bjarke Ingels Group and built by Swiss company CCHE — two partners also responsible for the Musée Atelier — the building traces the topography of the valley, with zig-zag slabs that lead to the meadows behind the hotel. The motif is replicated indoors, throughout the passageways, rooms and all the way to the lobby.

The ceiling is festooned with white trees, in homage to the Risoud Forest reflected on the surface of the Lac de Joux, while large lamp shades in the restaurants and rooms take after the mushrooms and foliage found in the valley. Not one for hard sell, Audemars Piguet has not set up a gift shop at the hotel, so consider your dream of snagging a Royal Oak as a souvenir dashed. But you can leave the premises smelling of spring flowers when you book yourself a session at the in-house spa, which imbues its treatments with plants native to the valley.

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Ulysse Nardin

The brand that flaunts in-your-face statements about time, technology and centuries-old traditions wants 'freaky' to be your favourite F word



BY KONG WAI YENG

What does forging freedom entail? If the question was directed to contemporary polymath and horology maverick Dr Ludwig Oechslin, he would have answered "efficiency". The Swiss master watchmaker at Ulysse Nardin once said, "No matter if it is a high complication or a simpler one, what is important is to realise it with the fewest parts possible." As straightforward as it may be, that ethos became the guiding principle of Freak, as exemplified by the company's genre-defying wristwatch which is conspicuously devoid of hands, a dial or a crown.

The "less is more" concept had already existed within the brand's technical office before Freak's ground-breaking reveal in 2001. But the piece was not exactly the sort of project Oechslin preferred to undertake as he did not want to design "a complexity without reason". However, epiphany struck when he and CEO Rolf Schnyder realised they could get the watch to turn on its own



Freak S Nomad

in one hour so that the movement could become an indication. With this came a seven-day power reserve as well as a new escapement made from an unusual material like silicon. These elements merged into an all-in-one concept that encapsulated Ulysse Nardin's ultimate goal: to capture the imagination of those drawn to the impossible.

At first glance, the Freak is perceived as a paradox: How does the machinery that animates the watch become the medium of time itself? The hovering "carousel tourbillon", not merely an ornament but a vital component, rotates on its own axis by setting the bezel. Such mechanised ballet, both mesmerising and revolutionary, stands as a reminder that the most daring innovations usually arise from a willingness to suspend belief.

This year, the coupling of haute horlogerie with métiers d'art has transpired in the form of the Freak S Nomad. The judiciously chosen name not only represents the collection's "nomadic" free spirit but also nods to the desert as the sand-dune-inspired



Freak X Ops



Freak One Ops

hour disk is the result of a link to early 18th-century watchmaking history. Those at Watches and Wonders Geneva would have spotted a massive replica of the Freak's movement anchoring Ulysse Nardin's avant-garde booth.

Familiar but dramatically evolved, the Freak S Nomad consists of the latest calibre UN-251, a flying carousel that features two oscillators with silicon balance wheels inclined at 20° (that resemble launch pads) and escapements treated with high-tech DIAMONSIL for added precision and durability.

The fascinating meeting of past and future is further illustrated via the traditional guilloché pattern of the hour disk, achieved with an 18th-century rose engine turned entirely by hand before it received a beige CVD (chemical vapour deposition) treatment. The fact that no two plates are identical or that no laser-guided machine is involved makes the Freak S Nomad all the more charming and desirable.

Nearly 23 years on, the Freak has remained stylistically futuristic. But upending the norm is also a double-edged sword. While it may be easy to spot a Freak from a distance, it can be easily dismissed as something you have seen before. How else can Ulysse Nardin

transform watchmaking technology that is fundamentally archaic? By looking skyward and beyond.

The Freak S Nomad's allusion to space is not coincidental as the "fantastical spaceship" design draws from the architecture of the UN-251 movement which comprises 373 components and 33 jewels. Acute angles that exhibit traditional flourishes of anglage and micro-polished parts lend the piece a slightly menacing and imposing look not unlike that of a dark spacecraft. These features are placed within a lightweight titanium 45mm case with an anthracite PVD-coated titanium bezel used to set the time. Winding this limited-edition piece, one of only 99, is carried out by the highly efficient Grinder® system which requires the smallest amount of energy to power the mainspring barrel.

Covert convert

When the Freak X premiered a few years ago, Ulysse Nardin created what it called the "daily freak" with a traditional crown and lower price point. At Watches and Wonders Shanghai 2023, this little cousin of its "Freak antecedents" assumed a new guise as it went "undercover" with the

Freak X Ops, as in "operations". Its black DLC titanium case, bezel and crown, khaki green carbon fibre composite flanks and fabric strap convey an adventurous disposition, just like its predecessors.

The watchmaker is known for blazing a trail in marine chronometers as it has supplied some of the world's leading navies with high-calibre navigation tools. That same pioneering spirit lies behind the Freak X Ops which melds the qualities of traditional horology with a high-concept wristwatch. If the case flanks seem all too familiar, that is because they were first introduced in the Freak X Magma, which exudes volcanic vibes of cascading lava. The hot commodity sports a mix of carbon fibre and red, marbled epoxy resin; the stealthy Freak X Ops on the other hand boasts green epoxy resin.

Beating away at the watch's heart is the UN-230 self-winding movement, an amalgamation of the bulletproof UN-118 and the UN-250 that gave the Freak Vision — a visual stunner that looks as if a commanding Star Destroyer has taken over — its unforgettable silhouette. And because the bridge and minutes indication are one and the same, the escapement revolves around the dial once every hour; a one-hour carousel tourbillon if you will. Lighting your vision are the hour and minute indicators coated in matching khaki Super-LumiNova that glows in green.

The Freak's freak

Given the notable updates on the Freak One, it was a matter of time before we saw another follow-up iteration. However, rather than replicating the 5N red gold bezel found in the inaugural model, the new Freak One Ops is crafted from carbonium, a carbon-based composite material sourced from the

production of aircraft wings and fuselages that reduces environmental impact by 40%. Ulysse Nardin's prestige does not loom large in military history but the seemingly battlefield-ready Freak One Ops is keen to gain some loyal troops.

Under the sapphire crystal glass lies a khaki green barrel cover with a sunray pattern, making this time-reading spectacle an arresting backdrop for the beige hour markers and hand arrows. The narrow outer chapter ring with Arabic numerals at three, six, nine and 12, along with subtle applied indices, complement the camouflage aesthetic of this technical wonder. A main bridge structure with a gear train forms the brand's signature anchor emblem, while a flying balance bridge acts as a counterweight to the unconventional minute hand that rotates alongside the gear train above the dark green surface.

Energising the Freak One Ops is the in-house UN-240 automatic movement with a rather generous 90-hour power reserve at a 21,600 vph beat rate. Once again, the brand's proprietary Grinder® winding system swaps out a traditional rotor-style set-up for a rotating frame with four blades that creates twice the angular stroke to increase the winding efficiency of the movement. Finally, to complete the watch's military persona, Ulysse Nardin pairs it with an integrated khaki and black "ballistic" rubber strap or a two-tone rubber strap, both crafted from 30% recycled rubber and secured with a black DLC titanium and black ceramic folding buckle.

Ulysse Nardin has engendered a democratisation in the form of social liberation, allowing wearers to engage with the world on their terms with newfound autonomy. Its timepieces are a horological odyssey that continues to challenge and captivate, proving that sometimes, to march into the future, one must first dare to be a little freaky. **E**



Urwerk

The watchmaker bridges the familiar and the fantastical, crafting epic narratives while leaping through galaxies and timelines



UR-100V 'Lightspeed'

BY KONG WAI YENG

Despite their sizes, timepieces have enjoyed some of the finest hours as key supporting roles in films. Rich in symbolic complexity as they are in mechanical complications, watches are used to outline not just the social standing of a character but also build tension in a scene or add urgency to a situation. Although they mostly serve as silent commentators on the nature of time, in a sci-fi flick, nifty tickers become sentinels of the universe's mysteries.

The force is particularly strong with Urwerk's co-founder and chief designer Martin Frei. When his engineer father was researching space exploration at Princeton University in 1977, he regularly sent audiotapes back to his children in Switzerland about his life in the US. In one recording, he raved about a new space saga he had just seen: *Star Wars*.

When Frei returned home and reunited with his family, he took his

sons, as promised, to see the George Lucas blockbuster. Martin, who was 11 then, still remembers the day he saw beams of blue and red striking and swinging in perfect choreography.

"Such things stay with you. My generation connected with the story. It was an old one, but it showcased a world we hadn't seen before," he once explained to a group of journalists. *Star Wars* was a fantasy that also carried threads of resonance in the real world. The brand's very first piece, the UR-102 with wandering hour running on a semi-circular minute track, was inspired by Han Solo's trusty Millennium Falcon.

Science fiction is baked into Urwerk's DNA, as demonstrated by its latest UR-100V Lightspeed that gravitates around the speed of light, or rather, the time it takes the sun's rays to reach the eight planets (for example, only 8.3 minutes to hit Earth and 4.1 hours, Neptune). A new openworked domed black structure hovering above the hours' mechanism relays this information on two levels



using green indications for the time and white for the celestial bodies.

The astronomical indications on the UR-100 first introduced in 2019, which display the Earth's rotation and revolution around the big fiery plasma in a 20-minute time frame, were not entirely useful to wearers. But at least, the newer Lightspeed gives the feeling of mounting a mini planetarium on your wrist while offering a clearer visual representation of our position in the cosmos.

In geek speech, Urwerk plays with the constant speed of light, captured numerically at 299,792.458km/s and symbolically by the letter "c".

"Light is the most magical of all vessels," claims co-founder and master watchmaker Felix Baumgartner. "It's the one that explains our place on Earth, the immensity of the universe and our out-of-step relationship with the present moment. By the time the light of a star reaches us, it has probably ceased to shine. What we see is no longer there. We perceive a time, a past that no longer exists."



UR-120 'Space Black'

Rest assured that the Lightspeed still fulfils its utilitarian role as a wristwatch. In addition to its interstellar dimension, it displays the hours and minutes, but without hands. Instead, a satellite moves along an arc of a graduated circle. The first connotes the hour and the second, the minute. And when an hour satellite has covered its full 60 minutes, the next one bearing the following hour appears in front of the minutes' index. Who would have imagined this principle extrapolated from a 17th-century clock could be so creatively thought out and transmuted in this new iteration?

The Lightspeed is 43mm in diameter, 51.63mm in length, and has a thickness of 14.5mm. The case is made of 54-layer ThinPly black carbon with a slightly mottled, matte effect, and the caseback is DLC-treated titanium with a sandblasted and shot-blasted finish. The back of the watch reveals the automatic calibre 12.02. The full star-shaped rotor on the reverse side is drilled and governed by a profiled airscrew known as the Windfänger, a device used to minimise shock and reduce wear and tear.

Cosmic connection

Icons navigate evolving landscapes by embracing adaptability and relevance. So for Urwerk to turn the UR-120 to the dark side was, indeed, a bright idea. At the heart of this Space Black is a new revolving satellite complication that tells minutes and hours of the day in an "out of this world" manner. The analogue minutes are complemented by a never-before-seen split-open digital hour satellite mounted on planetary gears, while the hours' satellite takes the form of a V-shaped open hand, rotating on its axis to unveil its secrets smoothly.

Powered by the calibre UR-20.01, the watch is an intricate demonstration of ergonomic ingenuity, combining form and function with its 44mm length, 47mm width and 15.8mm thickness. With



the upper part of the case seamlessly smooth, devoid of any screws, the UR-120 features a flawless silhouette.

Baumgartner expresses pride in overcoming the extraordinary challenges faced during the development of this piece. "On the part alone governing the partition of our satellite time, there are more than 175 components. These parts were meticulously crafted with our CNC machines, rock and roll with micron-level exactitude. This 'Vulcan salute' complication we dreamt of and created is synonymous with 'Live Long and Prosper'. It cost us a few hours of our lives and quite some stress, but the result is definitely worthy of our efforts. This achievement is nothing short of spectacular."

Enthusiasts will delight in the triple evolution taking place under the hood of this spacecraft. The satellite-bearing carousel spins on a central axis, each satellite counter-spins to remain upright and therefore readable and each stud spins on its axis.



UR-230 'Eagle'

Winged inspirations

Birds soaring through the sky evoke a sense of liberation, a quality that echoes the limitless possibilities that time presents. Urwerk presented the UR-220 Falcon after bidding farewell to the UR-210, one of the brand's most iconic watches. Fast forward three years, the founders took the UR-200 line-up to new heights by debuting a dual variable-geometry turbine, double shock absorber and hybrid winding system in the UR-230. Affectionately called "Eagle", this highly desirable "animal" has undergone a physical transformation, including the development of a CTP carbon case fitted with a mobile cover, along with sleeker aerodynamic lines and a slimmer profile.

Staying true to the DNA of Urwerk's predator family, the UR-230 arrives with a mobile cover designed from the same material to protect the sapphire crystal. The cover has a "beak-shaped" edge so you can easily lift it to view the whole dial. To close, a specially developed braking device ensures the lid gently rests on the sapphire crystal and clips into place.

Display-wise, the Eagle bears certain similarities to its predecessor but offers a sophisticated version of the revolving satellite complication that is Urwerk's essential signature. On a three-armed carousel, rotating blocks each carry four hours' numerals. They scroll along a 120° sector, with the face of the current hour pointing towards the observer. To display the minutes, these hour cubes are trapped in an aluminium 3D retrograde hand. At the end of its 60-minute journey, this skeletonised hand returns to index 0, where it takes charge of the cube displaying the next hour.

Frei, who wanted to rethink the collection while preserving its energy and vivacity, elaborates. "We are proud to present the UR-230, the latest addition to our iconic series 200 launched in 2006/07 with the introduction of the UR-201 'Hammerhead'. We have evolved the concept, the elegance of the predator, but in a different context. We have created 'The Maltese Falcon' and 'The Pilgrim', watches akin to a bird of prey with their powerful retrograde system. The new UR-230 features a complex

half-hunter case [with a protective cover] crafted from finely layered carbon. The UR-230 is both lightweight and robust. It deserves to bear the name, the king of the skies."

Apart from its time-telling aptitude, the Eagle comes with a new set of bells and whistles. A world-first set of shock absorbers has been designed to protect the UR-7.30 calibre — housed in a hermetically sealed container — via turbines. The first set of turbines attenuates the impact of any external shock, thereby guaranteeing the durability of the watch. The second controls the flow of air that feeds the winding system. The strength of this "air brake", designed to modulate the winding power according to the wearer's level of activity, is set by a rotating knob on the back of the watch. A second switch opposite the first serves to entirely disengage the rotor, and the watch switches to manual winding mode. The level of adjustment of these two functions is indicated by two symmetrical indicators at 11 o'clock and 1 o'clock on the dial.

The UR-230 has been bolstered by a Vulcarbonised black rubber strap with a DLC buckle and Velcro fastening. A tool watch for the hardcore, this is not, but it does showcase its tactical side when the adventurous call for it.



Vacheron Constantin

Geometry and artistry, opposite points of the maison's creations,
cradle engineering and emotions in between



Patrimony Moon Phase Retrograde Date (left)
and Patrimony Manual-Winding



BY TAN GIM EAN

At Vacheron Constantin, mechanical watchmaking starts with points and lines that shape objects, which skilled craftsmen slowly transform into works of art with thoughtful design, colours, textures, technology and soul.

More than just something you wrap around the wrist to serve a need, the Swiss maison's timepieces tell us beauty is in an everyday companion that is intelligent, elegant and helps you keep time.

Whether it is a classic piece from its Traditionnelle collection, a minimalist Patrimony or a new sport-chic Overseas model, Vacheron Constantin fuses mechanics and art in lines that have become part of a rich heritage it dips into for inspiration to create watches and wonders for the times.

By the way, for those who like houses with history, the Vacheron Constantin Heritage Department is home to more than 1,600 items dating from the 18th century. Among the horological treasures on show are tools, pieces of furniture and some 420 linear metres.

Simple at heart

The world's oldest watch manufacture in continuous production since 1755 is acclaimed for producing some of the most complicated timepieces ever. But it also knows when to keep things simple because the essentials are all that is needed to tell the hour and simplicity in action is modern and enduring.

Look closely at a Vacheron Constantin Patrimony and you will see that elegance never goes out of style. Created in 2004, its roots are entwined with the essence of classic watchmaking in the 1950s, when understated design found expression through rounded curves, taut lines and open uncluttered dials set within slender bezels.

For 20 years, Patrimony has celebrated the purity of style, expressed through basic pieces. It continues on that track with the release of two new models and a new moon phase retrograde date that doffs the hat to minimalism. All three have a fresh sunburst antique silver-toned dial and strap colours, and small changes that make them contemporary accessories with hints of retro.

The manual-winding editions come in white or pink gold with a smaller 39mm diameter and 7.7mm case height, making them an option for ladies who like their watches big but slim. A closed customisable caseback offers more: If you are giving someone this timepiece, engrave a personal message or motif and make it something to keep.

At the heart of the case lies the manual-winding Calibre 1440, developed in-house, which is just 2.6mm thick and has 42 hours of power reserve. Slim, pink gold hands follow the curve of the dial and slender hour markers in the same shade intersect a circular minute track comprising 48 polished 18-carat gold “pearls”.

Azure blue and olive green, original colours for the alligator leather straps, further extend the pared-down element of the Patrimony: the first shade denotes calm and confidence, the second, balance and harmony.

The revamped Patrimony Moon Phase retrograde date gets a fresh sunburst antique-silver-toned dial in a 42.5mm white gold case. The silver contrasts subtly with pink gold hands and hour markers, giving it a two-tone effect.

Its two complications are powered by the in-house self-winding Calibre 2460 R31L. A moon phase indication at 6 o'clock graduates to correspond precisely with the moon's cycle of 29 days, 12 hours and 45 minutes — a precision that requires just one correction every 122 years.

A retrograde date display in the upper part of the dial underlines the brand's technical and style signature. Peer through the sapphire crystal caseback and admire its emblem, a Maltese cross, whose shape inspired the openworked 18-carat oscillating weight. An olive green alligator strap completes this new model.

A new tradition

In 2015, Vacheron Constantin marked its 260th anniversary by unveiling the Calibre 3200, which follows in the footsteps of chronographs that forged its reputation in the 1930s and 1940s. This in-house movement incorporates a monopusher chronograph and tourbillon regulator to obtain optimal reliability, precision and user friendliness.

The Calibre 3200 beats at the heart of the new Traditionnelle Tourbillon Chronograph, which is sculpted in 950 platinum and available in a limited edition of 50 pieces. It comes in a 42.5mm diameter case that is 11.7mm thick, with Dauphine-type hands, a railway-type minute track and a stepped case with a fluted caseback.

Most of the main elements of the timepieces are made of noble metal: the case, crown, dial and clasp. The last is attached to a dark blue alligator strap crafted with platinum thread and braided silk.

A sapphire display caseback allows one to admire how the complication works, with a column-wheel, lateral friction clutch and hammers for zero-resetting the chronograph hands. On the front, a perfectly legible dial shows a large tourbillon aperture at 12 o'clock, the 45-minute chronograph counter at 3 o'clock and the 65-hour power reserve at 6 o'clock.

New features include a friction-drive lateral clutch system that avoids any



Traditionnelle Tourbillon Chronograph –
Collection Excellence Platine



Overseas Tourbillon

Green adds new dimensions to four Overseas models

Deep green strikes a fresh balance with pink gold in the Vacheron Constantin Overseas, injecting energetic elegance into four new models: chronograph, dual time and dates in 41mm and 35mm.

The colour evokes the outdoors, sport and adventure, all of which stoke the spirit of travel that wings people across the world around the clock today.

The sunburst satin-finished dials of the 42.5mm chronograph, 41mm dual time, 41mm date and 35mm gemset arrest with the intensity of the shade. Enticed, your eyes slowly wander to the interchangeable bracelets or straps, a boon for those after bleisure as they can easily swap a pink-gold bracelet for a green calfskin or rubber strap, switching from classy to casual when the day's business is done.

This new hue holds its own among black, silver, pinkish beige and blue in Vacheron Constantin's traditional palette, adding verdant pops of colour to sporty-chic. Self-winding calibres and water resistance up to 150m, thanks to a screw-down crown, take the practical appeal of the timepieces to another level — beneath the waves. A beautiful watch is a joy for all time when every tick whispers quality and versatility. An open sapphire crystal caseback; a soft-iron casing ring that protects against magnetism; an 18-carat pink gold oscillating weight with Overseas' compass rose; high watchmaking finishes — these make a timepiece something to treasure.

Thinking of passing your timepiece to a loved one who is physically bigger? Just enlarge the wrist circumference of the pink-gold bracelet by 4mm through stretching the last one or even two links connected to the quick-release folding of the rose-gold bracelet. Similarly, with the interchangeable pin buckle on the collection's leather and rubber straps, you can multiply the colour variations by buying the straps alone without the fastening.

Vacheron Constantin's Style & Heritage Director, Christian Selmoni says the collection lends itself to new colour experiments, which it did, and introduced a pinkish-beige hue on certain ladies' models. Next was a gold-toned dial.

Then the question: Could the men's timepieces also adopt colours other than white, black and the collection's emblematic blue? The answer was obvious.

“We chose a deep green exuding hints of plants and forests, a sort of call to nature that makes a perfect fit with the Overseas spirit of travel and exploration,” Selmoni says. This intense green colour acts as a revealer, enhancing the brilliance of the gold while ensuring exceptional legibility of the watch's functions.



stuttering, with the seconds hand engaging smoothly when the chronograph is started.

The first model of the Traditionnelle Tourbillon Chronograph was unveiled in 2020. The platinum edition now joins the maison's Collection Excellence Platine which gathers limited-edition watches crafted in that precious metal and casts a radiance befitting its noble nature.

Meticulous finishing adds shine to the Traditionnelle's circular-grained plate, screws and gear teeth, all of which are polished and chamfered. The upper bridge is mirror polished and the bar is rounded off by hand. These painstaking efforts add up to a calibre that looks good and works long and hard because, aesthetics aside, they reinforce the corrosion resistance of the components. As artisans will attest, every detail matters if you want to create a classic.

A metal cast for sport

Titanium, bright and silver white in its pure form, opens up possibilities for Vacheron Constantin's Overseas collection with an emblematic blue dial, which is dedicated to travel. Its first tourbillon in that robust metal — from case to bezel to crown — has an integrated titanium bracelet with a triple-blade folding clasp that can be swapped for blue calfskin and rubber straps, tool-free — a welcome convenience whether you are flying or on land.

This self-winding tourbillon model is powered by the ultra-thin self-winding Calibre 2160 which is only 5.65mm thick. The tourbillon regulator is visible at 6 o'clock through a dial opening and the movement has a 22-carat gold peripheral oscillating weight winding the calibre, ensuring 80 hours of power reserve.

The Overseas collection, first released in 1996 and revisited in 2004, has the same pioneering spirit that pushed the brand into new markets in the 19th century. With adventure in its grooves and a curiosity about materials and how far it can go with them, Vacheron Constantin keeps eye and hand on technical and watch codes to execute creative ideas with flawless skills.

Titanium is half the weight of steel but 30% more resistant, making it the ideal fit for a sports watch collection. The metal has inspired many in the industry to “tame” its rigid nature and merge form and function to tell new sporting stories. Vacheron Constantin did that with two Overseas Everest limited series dedicated to photographer and mountaineer Cory Richards, who wore a prototype of the dual-time model on an expedition in 2019.

In 2022, the company offered an all-titanium tourbillon skeleton timepiece in its catalogue, a first in the collection that foreshadows the 2024 model. It has a solid dial that is openworked on the tourbillon only, with the same Calibre 2160 as its beating heart.

Sport and watchmaking merge unique expertise from both sides to tackle the challenges posed by unknown horizons. Titanium's lightweight and hypoallergenic properties are a plus for athletes and travel enthusiasts. With technical precision, interchangeable straps and a trusted name that leverages technological advances to stay at the forefront of invention and exploration, you get pieces like the Overseas tourbillon, a leader that stands the test of time. **E**

Zenith

Rugged boldness plays up this Swiss manufacturer's creations, which epitomise bravery and subversion

BY GENIE LEONG

There is a popular idiom that is often heard from boardroom to classroom and beyond — “the sky’s the limit”. This expression, signifying that there are endless possibilities should one put their mind to the task and that there are no boundaries to what can be achieved, has been used for generations to uplift promising youths and hardened professionals alike.

In the world of horology, this dauntlessness is perhaps best embodied by a house whose name not only refers to being at the peak of success, but is also the astrological term for the highest point reachable by a celestial body (like the sun or moon) in the sky — Zenith.

Founded in 1865 in the quaint municipality of Le Locle, Switzerland, by Georges Favre-Jacot, who devoted himself to the art of watchmaking since childhood, Zenith started with humble precision pocket watches and marine chronometres and grew into the first vertically integrated Swiss watch manufacturer. The label is arguably most well known for exclusively featuring its spectacular in-house movements, and its Horiz-on initiative that speaks for the brand’s commitment to diversity, sustainability and employee well-being.

Naturally, a house that represents having big dreams and realising one’s potential to the fullest has come to accompany several of the most notable figures in style, sport, the arts and more. From a history-making flight across the English Channel with Louis Blériot and a stomach-dropping free-fall jump performed by Felix Baumgartner, to the label’s ever-expanding roster of ambassadors and Friends of the Brand including Desmond Tan (Singapore), Jay Fung (Hong Kong) and Francisco Cerúndolo (Argentina), the brand has supported many budding talents and seen some of the world’s larger-than-life personalities through their greatest achievements.

This year, Zenith puts its best foot forward with three edgy introductions to its iconic Defy wristwatch line. Manifesting Zenith’s signature suave-tinged reliability and ruggedness, each demonstrates the house’s purposeful design process, a lust for life inspired by the outdoors — particularly the ocean — and a resolution to excel and exceed expectations.

White-hot

As the mercury rises and simmering heat waves rise up from the tarmac, keeping one’s cool — literally and otherwise — is a topmost priority. Long, sunny days call for extra brightness, polish and smooth performance, and



Defy Skyline Skeleton White Ceramic

the new Defy Skyline Skeleton in white ceramic promises to get you through the sticky season without (figuratively) breaking a sweat.

As the heir to Zenith's first-ever Defy wristwatch from 1969, this alabaster-hued piece neatly merges past and present in an architectural build that echoes its predecessor and undeniably modern white exterior. A dodecagonal (a figure with 12 straight sides and vertices) bezel offers just enough fluidity to complement all ensembles and occasions while still providing visual excitement that invites the eye to linger.

It is no secret that white is one of the most difficult colours to maintain. Luckily for the wearer, the blinding, pristine case (the first of its kind to grace the Defy line) is highly scratch-resistant, boasting interspersed satin-brushed and polished finishes. Don it on the matching ceramic bracelet completed with a folding clasp or go the casual route with the star-patterned rubber strap that can be installed in the blink of an eye, thanks to the case's quick strap-change mechanism.

The intense azure dial is a stark contrast to the outer shell. As the wearer moves, it reveals different gradations of blue, similar to an iridescent crystal. The open structure forms Zenith's four-pointed star motif from 1969, echoing the brand's famous tagline "Time to reach your star". Rhodium-plated hands and hour markers coated in Super-LumiNova SLN C1 enhance both form and function, even as twilight creeps onto the horizon.

The El Primero 3620 SK movement lies beneath in the same saturated night sky tone. An automatic high-frequency skeleton calibre, it boasts the world's inaugural and only 1/10th of a second indicator, powered by the 5Hz escapement. Coming with a generous power reserve of 55 hours, this timepiece is also water-resistant up to 100m, making it perfect for all the waterside activities on your summer calendar.

Making a splash

While Zenith is all about reaching for the stars, for others, that drive and sense for adventure is motivated by the deep, dark depths of the wild seas. If you feel most at peace in the cool embrace of the waves, then the Defy Extreme Diver should be on your hit list. Despite its roots in a large portfolio of vintage diver's watches, this one evidences how far the maison has come in terms of intricate design and first-class performance.

Titanium was selected as the material from which to craft the 42.5mm case — an easy decision, given the metal's light weight and high durability, suited for even the most spirited of daredevils. In addition, its resistance to salt corrosion was necessary for the watch's intended purpose. The case also comes equipped with a helium escape valve and a ceramic unidirectional rotating bezel above the fixed dodecagonal one, optimising function while the wearer is suited up in gear and at high-pressure depths.



Defy Extreme Diver

The Super-LumiNova-filled engraved bezel ensures legibility even in the inky, unlit environment found at 600m underwater — the watch's depth rating.

In brighter conditions, make sure to take a closer look to appreciate the geometric four-pointed star motif on the metallic dial, which comes in blue or black to match the bezel. A sunburst effect emanates from the signature star installed at 12 o'clock, and the colour-matched aperture at 3 o'clock displays the date.

Upon turning the piece over, one gets an unobstructed view of the El Primero 3620-SC movement through the flawless sapphire crystal back. While this design

element is hard to come by in diver's watches, with the automatic calibre's 60-hour power reserve, paramagnetic escapement with key components in non-metallic silicon, 27 jewels and eye-catching five-pointed star oscillating weight, who would not want to watch it at work?

Lastly, three wearing options leave one spoilt for choice — a titanium three-link bracelet with folding clasp, which turns the watch into a snazzy accessory for post-dive watertop celebrations; the FKM rubber strap with a Cordura texture; and a longer alternative made from fabric developed from recycled fishing nets.

Nostalgic resurrections

As one of Zenith's earliest Defy models and diver's watches, the 1969 A3648 was a state-of-the-art machine emblematic of the brand's adventurous soul. Presenting an unconventional take on the house's already avant-garde steel bracelet watch and offering as much substance as it did style, the watch is now one of the most sought-after vintage pieces by collectors and was a key inspiration for the Extreme Diver.

Thus, it only made sense for Zenith to breathe new life into the coveted antique piece by releasing the Revival A3648. The reedition marks the first time the label has refreshed an old diver's watch, and joins the recent lineup of creations inspired by the past while encapsulating the modern Defy essence.

Measuring 37mm, the steel case is fitted with a tetradecagon (14-sided shape) bezel that imitates Zenith's timepieces of yesteryear, but reimagined by situating it on top a round rotating counterpart with the same black-and-bright orange markings found on the original A3648. A domed sapphire crystal glass with anti-reflective treatment on both sides is fitted above the matte black dial. Hands in the same acidic colour on the round bezel are painted with white Super-LumiNova, radiating a green glow in the dark.

Similar to the Extreme Diver, the Revival A3648 has a sapphire display back — through which the wearer may observe the Elite 670 automatic movement that provides 50 hours of power reserve — and a water-resistance of 600m, which is equivalent to 1,969ft, referencing the year the initial Defy line and A3648 were released.

The sleek five-link steel bracelet with folding closure mirrors the one on the historic model designed by the illustrious Gay Frères company. Wearing the watch over a wetsuit is made effortless with the inclusion of a deployment buckle that omits the need to add or remove additional links.

Best of all is the Revival A3648's unshakeable genesis in Zenith's keen ability to adapt to and evolve for the modern adventurer and go-getter, while resonating with its classic techniques and craftsmanship that have made the house the obvious choice for the most ambitious and fearless among us. **E**



Defy Revival A3648

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