

Crown & bezel

THE STRAITS TIMES DECEMBER 9, 2022

IN THE OPEN

Fine skeleton timepieces

HEAVY HITTERS

This year's top horological draws

INTO THE DEEP

Best dive watches

TIME AFTER TIME

All about chronographs

HER WORLD

Ticking her fancy





ONLY HUMAN



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PRESIDENT, PATEK PHILIPPE

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On her: Sheer embellished dress with oversized shoulder pads, silk bralette, silk knickers and leather logo belt, by Dolce & Gabbana. Watch: Ulysse Nardin Freak S. On him:
Oversized structured leather biker jacket, high neck knit top and slim trousers, by Dolce & Gabbana.
Watch: Franck Muller Vanguard Revolution 3 Skeleton Cortina Watch 50th Anniversary Special Edition.

Outfit (above): Double-breasted suit, by Bottega Veneta.
Watch: Zenith Defy Extreme Carbon.

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Dive Right In
8-12

Stars Of The Show
14-20

Bare Essentials
22-24

It's Her Time
26&27

Start. Time. Stop
28-33

My Dream Watch
34

BACK TO BOOM TIME?

I recently attended home-grown watch retailer Cortina's 50th anniversary bash. It was a black-tie affair, with a marvellous nine-course dinner and an open bar serving a never-ending flow of cocktails, bubbly and other spirits.

In addition to the likes of Thierry Stern, president of Patek Philippe, and Karl-Friedrich Scheufele, president of Chopard, many of the people who make the watch industry tick – clients, suppliers, journalists – were there.

The mood was exuberant, and for good reason. There was genuine pride and happiness that a small 400 sq ft watch shop – started by Cortina founder Anthony Lim in 1972 in the now defunct Colombo Court shopping centre – has grown into one of South-east Asia's biggest luxury watch retailers and distributors.

There was also relief that the world was getting back to normal, and the watch industry – despite the pandemic – is going through one of its most robust growth phases in decades. Cortina's performance certainly bears this out. Its net profit for the six months ended Sept 30, 2022 was \$37.9 million, a 49 per cent jump from \$25.4 million in the same period last year.

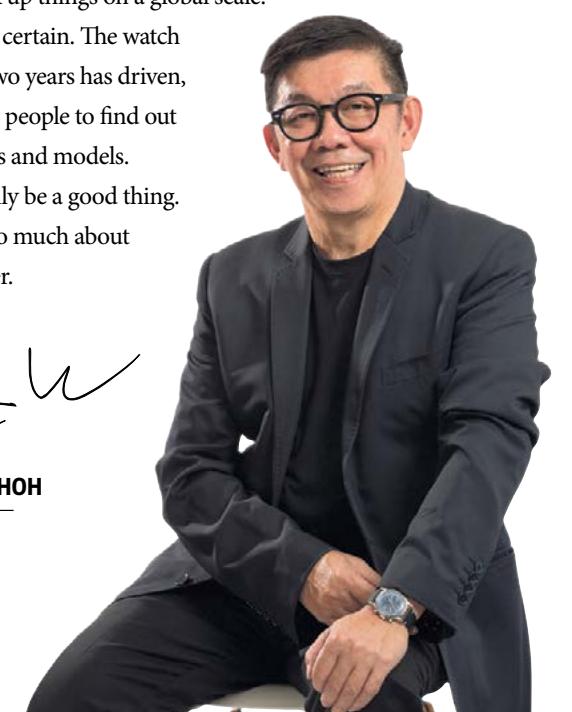
Pundits give several reasons for the growth. Crypto gains. Watches being increasingly perceived as an asset class. The sudden surfeit of horological information on social media. These have fuelled demand not just for big mainstream watch brands like Rolex and Patek Philippe, but also independent ones such as FP Journe and MB&F.

How long and whether this lasts is anybody's guess. The markets are still reeling from the crypto meltdown, China is still grappling with Covid-19 and the Russia-Ukraine conflict continues to muck up things on a global scale.

But one thing is certain. The watch boom of the last two years has driven, and is still driving, people to find out more about brands and models.

And that can only be a good thing. After all, there is so much about watches to discover.

WONG KIM HOH
Editor



BVLGARI
ROMA

SERPENTI

DIVE RIGHT IN

by ZHUANG PEK MENG

Dive watches are big money-spinners for many watchmakers.

Buyers cannot get enough of them. It does not matter that many fans are not divers and are not going to plunge into the ocean with a watch with a price tag that can run into six figures.

The appeal of luxury dive watches is not hard to understand. They are superb everyday watches: stylish, tough, sporty, versatile and comfortable to wear. This is not lost on watchmakers. When making the latest Deepsea Challenge, technically the most advanced dive watch in the market, Rolex says that every element of the timepiece was "crafted with everyday use in mind".

Here are some of the most nifty dive watches.

People who splurge on luxury dive watches may not be divers, as the sporty timepieces are superb for everyday wear too



ROLEX OYSTER PERPETUAL DEEPSA CHALLENGE

This dive watch, launched in early November, has many surprises. Its size, for one. Rolex has made really big watches in the past, but only for deep ocean explorations. This 50mm monster came like a bolt from the blue, in an unannounced and off-season roll-out. New Rolex watches are typically unveiled at a major watch fair with advance notice and much buzz. Who would have expected another spin-off based on the experimental model that plumbed the depths with filmmaker James Cameron when he made a dive to the Mariana Trench – the deepest place on Earth – in 2012? What is more, Rolex has never sold a watch in full titanium, an ultra-light material necessary for a watch as big as the new Deepsea Challenge. It would not come as a surprise if the watch becomes another big hit for Rolex. After all, which brand can brag of a dive watch that is waterproof to 11,000m deep?

Price: \$36,040

Elegance is an attitude



Regé-Jean Page



LONGINES



Since 1832
190



Longines Boutiques Singapore
Wisma Atria, #02-01A
The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands, #B2M-219
Bugis Junction, #01-105

THE LONGINES
MASTER COLLECTION



TISSOT SEASTAR 1000 QUARTZ

This 36mm timepiece is not only equipped for diving, but also made to fit snugly on a woman's wrist. As its name suggests, the quartz-powered watch is water-resistant up to 1,000ft, or 300m, and has a unidirectional rotating bezel for timing dives. The watch comes with a shimmering black, blue or white lacquered dial paired with a steel bracelet, which is interchangeable with a silicone strap option, available in many colours.

There is a matching men's 46mm Seastar 2000 Powermatic 80 automatic model, which provides advanced performance and is just as versatile as the Seastar 1000 Quartz.

Price: \$560 (Seastar 1000 Quartz), \$1,090 (Seastar 2000 Powermatic 80)

GUCCI DIVE

The Italian fashion brand goes green with four unisex dive watches in a new collection, made of plant-derived plastic. Bio-based materials and recycled steel make up at least two-thirds of the watch case. The bracelet too boasts 46 per cent eco-conscious content and is available in transparent, matte white, aquamarine and natural moss green. The indexes, decorated with uniquely Gucci accents, are a standout feature. The Gucci Dive watches are water-resistant to 200m and powered by a movement that is visible from both the transparent dial and caseback. Price: \$2,620 each

Outfit: Silk boxy tuxedo three-piece suit, by Gucci.
Watch: Gucci Dive.

XIAO ZHAN, BRAND AMBASSADOR

TIME TO REACH YOUR STAR

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PATEK PHILIPPE REF 5168G AQUANAUT 'JUMBO'

An upsized model of the red-hot Aquanaut, Ref 5168G also comes in khaki green that hints at adventure and exploration. It is the second Aquanaut "Jumbo" with only date and time functions in Patek Philippe's current collection. Like the first, in midnight blue released in 2017, this "Jumbo" has a 42.2mm case, compared with the standard Aquanaut's 40.8mm. The white gold case gives the model's sporty chic image an extra shine. An elegantly slim automatic movement is revealed through the sapphire-crystal caseback. As with all Aquanaut models, the Ref 5168G is water-resistant to 120m, while its strap, crafted from composite material, is ultra-resistant to traction wear, salt water and ultraviolet radiation. The strap also boasts the new patented Aquanaut fold-over clasp, which provides optimal security. Price: \$62,400



TUDOR PELAGOS 39

Compact and versatile, this ultra-light dive watch forged in titanium is built with all the technical essentials to serve divers, right down to the hour markers which glow underwater. It is also quite the head-turner, with a 39mm satin-brushed case and a fully lumed bezel. An easy-to-adjust, satin-brushed titanium bracelet allows the watch to be strapped over a wetsuit. The bracelet is interchangeable with a stylish and extendable black rubber strap. The Pelagos 39 is equipped with an in-house automatic movement and is waterproof to 200m. Price: \$6,100



LONGINES ULTRA-CHRON

Watches powered by high-frequency movements are rare — more so in dive watches. The Ultra-Chron is fitted with not just a high-beat mechanism, which makes it more accurate, but it is also produced by a pioneer in the field. In fact, the watch, with an instantly recognisable 43mm cushion-shaped steel case, is modelled on the first high-frequency dive watch Longines introduced in 1968. The new Ultra-Chron has all it takes to be a reliable timekeeping device for divers: a unidirectional rotating bezel with a sapphire insert that lights up in the dark, and a screwed-in caseback and crown which protect the watch from water up to 300m deep. There is the choice of wearing the Ultra-Chron with a matching steel bracelet or leather strap. Price: \$5,170 (bracelet), \$4,770 (strap)

Published ENous

Time travels the world.

ARCEAU LE TEMPS VOYAGEUR

TIME, A HERMÈS OBJECT.

HERMÈS
PARIS

STARS OF THE SHOW

by ALVIN WONG

As the pandemic ebbs, the world's most coveted watch brands are back at their creative best. Here are some headlining watches to suit all tastes

TUDOR BLACK BAY PRO

Tudor's impressive run of sought-after Black Bay offerings continues with the sporty and versatile Black Bay Pro. Billed as "the adventurers' Black Bay", this model is distinguished by its rugged design and functionality suited for land adventures. The Black Bay Pro sports many of the collection's iconic designs, such as a domed sapphire-crystal case. The 39mm steel watch is a handy travel companion. It can tell the time in two time zones, thanks to an additional hand that points to the bezel with 24-hour markings. The hour hand can be moved in one-hour increments, making it easy to set the time. Backed by an automatic movement certified by COSC, the official Swiss chronometer testing institute, the watch is precise to -2/+4 seconds a day and stores up to 70 hours of power reserve. Price: From \$5,090

ROLEX OYSTER PERPETUAL AIR-KING

Fresh from a revamp in 2016, the Air-King returns this year emanating the same aviation-inspired charms to cement its place as one of Rolex's unique creations. It is all about nuanced but significant updates. The watch's Oystersteel case is redesigned to include a crown guard and features straighter case sides. Its bracelet now has broader middle links. The dial's prominent five-minute interval scale pairs "0" with "5" on the first marker so that all markers have two digits. All these changes endow the new Air-King with a sportier and more balanced look. Most importantly, the watch is now driven by a new movement: the automatic Calibre 3230, which is more energy efficient and has a power reserve of up to 70 hours, up from 48 hours in the previous model. Price: \$10,140

TUDOR

#BORN TODARE

What is it that drives someone to greatness? To take on the unknown, venture into the unseen and dare all? This is the spirit that gave birth to TUDOR, a spirit carried forward by every woman and man who wears this watch. Without it, there is no story, no legend and no victory. This is the spirit that drives Jay Chou every single day. This is the spirit embodied by every TUDOR Watch. Some are born to follow. Others are born to dare!

BLACK BAY 41 S&G

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VIVO CITY, #01-24. TEL: 6250 9830
PARKWAY PARADE, #01-47. TEL: 6348 9869

THE HOUR GLASS



IWC SCHAFFHAUSEN PILOT'S WATCH TOP GUN EDITION 'WOODLAND'

One of the pivotal brands that popularised pilot's watches, IWC has been creating aviation-inspired timepieces since 1936. The Top Gun series, launched in 2007, is hailed by IWC aficionados as the brand's most sporty and contemporary iteration of pilot's watches.

IWC lavishes military-inspired swag on the collection with the Pilot's Watch Top Gun Edition "Woodland". Housed in a 44.5mm matte green ceramic case complemented by matching fabric and rubber strap, the watch takes on the colour of fighter pilots' combat suits. A pioneer of using ceramic on watches in the 1980s, IWC was able to concoct a perfect shade of military olive for this special edition. The watch has a high-performance automatic chronograph movement with a 46-hour power reserve.

Price: \$15,900



GIRARD-PERREGAUX CASQUETTE 2.0

Although Girard-Perregaux is better known for exquisite tourbillons and elegant dress watches, the brand sprung a delightfully off-kilter surprise this year with the funky, retro-inspired Casquette 2.0. A remake of the supercar-inspired Casquette from 1976, the Casquette 2.0 inherits the original's automobile-derived profile, while updating it with newfound sleekness. Distinguished by its aerodynamically shaped case with a linear LED display, the Casquette 2.0 is clad in black ceramic with an alternate glossy and matte finish. The watch feels light on the wrist, weighing just 107g, thanks to its titanium caseback and pushers. Powered by an advanced quartz movement, the Casquette 2.0 displays a second time zone and has a programmable memory date. It has an on-demand time display mode, in which the watch's battery life can last up to two years. Limited to 820 pieces. Price: \$6,500

HERMÈS ARCEAU LE TEMPS VOYAGEUR

French marque Hermès has a knack for creating technically interesting and poetically inclined timepieces. The Arceau Le Temps Voyageur may be broadly defined as a two-time-zone watch. However, the manner in which the watch displays the different time zones is akin to performance art.

The watch employs an aperture at 12 o'clock to display the home time, and a mobile sub-dial for the local time, which corresponds to the 24-city ring that frames the watch. With the local time set against a depiction of the world map, it is as if the watch, too, is traversing the globe with its owner. The visual treat is made possible by an exclusively designed module, which is mounted on Hermès' automatic H1837 movement. Available in several variations, this model comes in a 41mm black diamond-like carbon-treated platinum case with a sand-blasted black and charcoal grey dial. Price: \$41,780

NORQAIN WILD ONE COLLECTION

The man throwing his weight behind the collection is Jean-Claude Biver, a titan in the watch industry. Biver worked with Norqain's teams for two years to create the Wild One, a collection comprising four models.

The collection is fashioned from Norteq, a proprietary material six times lighter than titanium and has a polymer matrix containing 60 per cent bio-sourced material. The watches are designed to have a superlative shock absorption ability which surpasses industry standards, passing tests conducted at 5,000G.

There are two regular models (\$8,080) and two limited-edition models. One of the limited-edition models (\$8,580) is designed with wildlife ambassador Dean Schneider. It features a lion fur pattern and is limited to 500 pieces. The other one (\$8,780) boasts a burgundy case and a grey rubber strap, and is limited to 200 pieces.



CARRERA

R. Galiaj

TAG HEUER BOUTIQUE
WISMA ATRIA, ION ORCHARD
& MARINA SQUARE





omegawatches.com

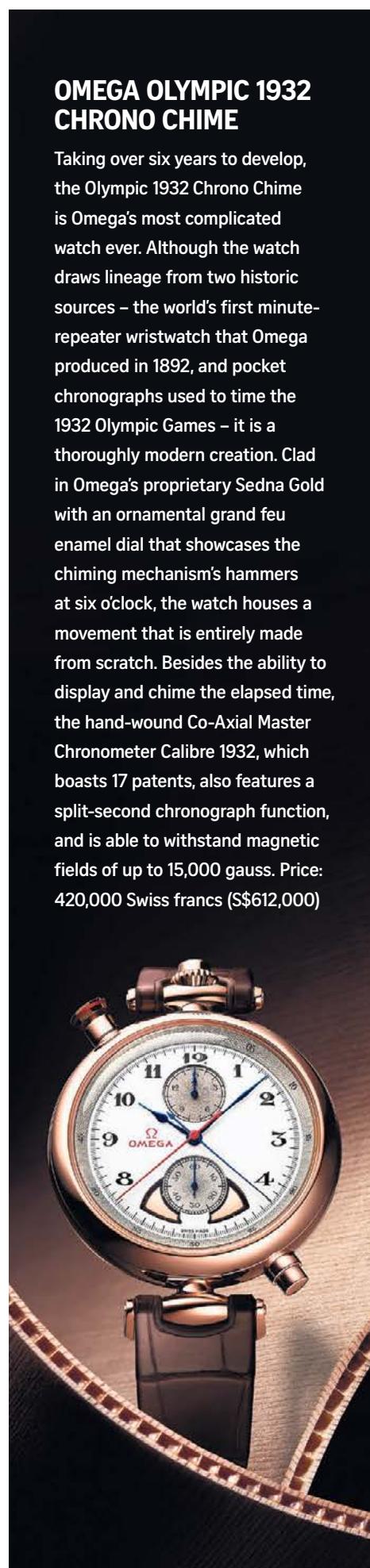


A WORLD OF ENCHANTMENT

Amidst the freshly fallen snow, a glistening OMEGA wonder is revealed. The Constellation in stainless steel and 18K Sedna™ Gold sits at the heart of our festive dreamscape, where iconic heritage and mechanical precision are seamlessly brought to life. Even in these frozen seconds of time, there is a forward momentum that celebrates OMEGA's endless pursuit of excellence. This Co-Axial Master Chronometer watch, with its natural green Aventurine dial and diamond-paved bezel, is the perfect choice for a magical winter full of beauty and imagination.

Ω
OMEGA

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• The Shoppes at Marina Bay Sands 6225 2393 • Resorts World Sentosa 6723 8004



OMEGA OLYMPIC 1932 CHRONO CHIME

Taking over six years to develop, the Olympic 1932 Chrono Chime is Omega's most complicated watch ever. Although the watch draws lineage from two historic sources – the world's first minute-repeater wristwatch that Omega produced in 1892, and pocket chronographs used to time the 1932 Olympic Games – it is a thoroughly modern creation. Clad in Omega's proprietary Sedna Gold with an ornamental grand feu enamel dial that showcases the chiming mechanism's hammers at six o'clock, the watch houses a movement that is entirely made from scratch. Besides the ability to display and chime the elapsed time, the hand-wound Co-Axial Master Chronometer Calibre 1932, which boasts 17 patents, also features a split-second chronograph function, and is able to withstand magnetic fields of up to 15,000 gauss. Price: 420,000 Swiss francs (S\$612,000)



LONGINES MASTER COLLECTION 190TH ANNIVERSARY

A well-established Swiss marque that makes sophisticated yet accessibly priced watches, Longines celebrates its 190th anniversary this year with a trio of subtle but stunning commemorative watches. Christened the Master Collection 190th Anniversary, they come in stainless steel, yellow gold and rose gold, capped at 190 pieces each.

A picture of quiet elegance, the watches have polished round cases and dials decorated with vintage-style leaf-shaped hands and hand-engraved hour numerals. The watches flaunt decorative touches on the textured dials. An open sapphire caseback offers a view of the automatic Calibre L888.5, which features a winding rotor decorated with Longines' iconic winged logo. Price: \$3,420 (stainless steel), \$17,170 (gold versions)



TAG HEUER FORMULA 1 X MARIO KART CHRONOGRAPH TOURBILLON

Tag Heuer's partnership with gaming giant Nintendo has yielded some rather whimsical timepieces. Following up on last year's Connected X Super Mario Limited Edition smartwatch, the collaboration goes high-mech with two limited-editions this year: the Formula 1 X Mario Kart Chronograph and, the pick for this round-up, the Formula 1 X Mario Kart Chronograph Tourbillon. A playful interpretation of a high-end complication for moneyed Super Mario fans, the watch is in equal parts sporty, technically sophisticated, and quirky. Driven by the COSC-certified automatic tourbillon movement, the watch is, at heart, a high-performance and technically advanced sports watch. Super Mario-inspired design elements – the character's likeness driving a cart on the rotating tourbillon cage, Mario's 'M' logo on the crown, and signature red outlines on the dial – imbue the watch with fun and mischief. The watch has a high-performance automatic chronograph movement with a 46-hour power reserve. Price: \$36,100



A. LANGE & SOHNE'S NEW ZEITWERK

A. Lange & Sohne created quite a stir in 2009 when it debuted the Zeitwerk, the first mechanical wristwatch that displays hours and minutes with jumping numerals. The iconic dial design and layout were inspired by the Semper Opera House in Dresden, Germany.

The upgraded timepiece comes in two versions: titanium and pink gold. It has been given a new hand-wound Calibre L043.6, which boasts seven patents and 451 components. This new heart beats

a lot more sturdily and has an updated barrel with two mainsprings which double the power reserve to 72 hours. The 59-jewel movement also has a remontoir constant force mechanism, which delivers better precision. The new pusher at four o'clock allows for quick and easy forward adjustment of the jumping hour display, very handy for travellers who traverse different time zones. Price upon request.



PRX
TISSOT PRX AUTOMATIC CHRONO
 SWISS MADE CHRONOGRAPH POWERED BY RENOWNED VALJOUX A05 MOVEMENT

THE GIFT OF TIME



ZENITH DEFY EXTREME CARBON

The Defy Extreme Carbon is billed as Zenith's "boldest and most rugged" model to house its epochal El Primero 9004 automatic movement – an engine that can measure time to 1/100th of a second. Inspired by the Extreme E rally, the world's first off-road electrically racing championship, of which

Zenith is the official timekeeper, the Defy Extreme Carbon looks every inch the high-octane wrist accompaniment.

Although it appears gargantuan, the watch's 45mm carbon fibre and micro-blasted titanium case feels light and wraps snugly around the wrist. The multi-layered, open-work dial adds to the dynamic design. The watch's white hands and minute chapter ring, chronograph sub-dials and markers, accented with the rally's official colours, beautifully contrast against the exposed movement parts.

Price: \$36,700

FRANCK MULLER VANGUARD REVOLUTION 3 SKELETON

Here is a testosterone-charged take on the mind-blowingly complex tourbillon, an 1801 invention that employs a rotating cage housing regulating mechanisms to cancel out the effects of gravity on a watch's precision. Unlike a traditional tourbillon, which features a single cage rotating on a flat plane, the Revolution 3 features three cages, each rotating on its own axis, at its own speed. First launched in 2004, the Revolution 3 was the world's first triple-axis tourbillon. The new Vanguard Revolution 3 Skeleton takes things to another level. The movement is housed in a sporty, transparent sapphire case, while the triple-axis tourbillon performs its mechanical ballet magnified in a globular crystal dome, acting as a centrepiece. Price: \$1,091,400

BARE ESSENTIALS

by ALVIN WONG

Skeleton and open-work watches put function and form equally on the pedestal

Quite often, the first thing that sparks a lifelong obsession with mechanical timepieces is a curiosity for what goes on inside these watches. These complex assemblies of tiny wheels, gears and springs – known as movements – appear to work magically behind the scenes to make watches tick. For enthusiasts who cannot get enough of these mechanical marvels, there is a special category of timepieces, known as skeleton and open-work watches. Skeleton watches accord full view of the movements inside by removing excess material on the dial and movement, leaving only the bare bones. An open-work watch, while less extreme in execution, also strives to reveal the timepiece's inner workings by removing as much of the dial to expose the movement. Here are seven bare-faced watches that best demonstrate the art of inner beauty.



ULYSSE NARDIN FREAK S

As iconoclastic today as it was in 2001 when the collection was first launched, the Freak is one of the most avant-garde creations in contemporary watchmaking. Its distinctive open-work dial features movement parts on a carousel, which acts as a minute hand. Clad in ceramic, titanium and gold, the new Freak S continues to tear up the horological rule book. The time-telling system resembles a space shuttle, traversing a dial that resembles a night sky. The time display is kitted out with two oscillating systems – typical mechanical watches have only one – which work in tandem to improve precision.

A patented "grinder" winding system enhances the watch's winding efficiency. Limited to 75 pieces. Price: \$191,100



SANTOS DE CARTIER

Cartier wrote the rule book for its contemporary range of skeleton watches in 2004 when it debuted a series of bare-it-all Santos 100 models. Combining artistic expression and mechanical utilitarianism, the watches brandish movement bridges that are shaped into long and thin Roman numerals. The ingenious movement architecture resulted in a beautiful skeletonised appearance. The latest 39.8mm by 39.8mm Santos de Cartier in stainless steel follows the same aesthetic blueprint. The hollowed bridges are lavished with colours: in green, black or blue. The cool blue is replicated on the crown, which is set with the collection's signature blue sapphire crystal. Boasting maximum transparency, one can see through the hand-wound Calibre 9611 – a look that lends the watch a sense of both whimsy and gravitas. Price: \$42,000



Outfit: On her: Oversized single-breasted suit, by & Other Stories. On him: Women's asymmetric suit with high-neck backless top, by Dolce & Gabbana. Watch: On her: Santos de Cartier. On him: Ulysse Nardin Freak S.



BVLGARI OCTO FINISSIMO ULTRA

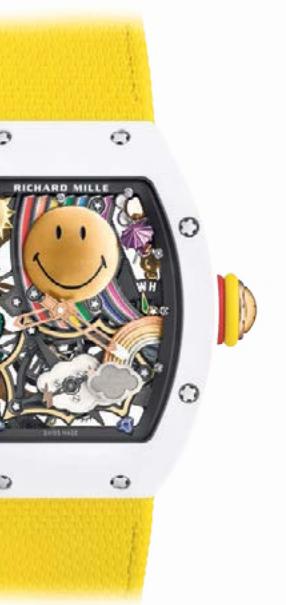
Be mesmerised by this watch's unorthodox interface that combines a QR-code decoration, separate hour and minute sub-dials, and exposed wheels. Measuring just 1.8mm thick, the Octo Finissimo Ultra will raise eyebrows with its technical feat. It is the brand's eighth creation since 2014 to be granted world-record ultra-thin status. Taking three years to develop, every single component has been trimmed to its thinnest, and the entire case and movement architecture re-engineered to ensure the 40mm watch's exceptional slimness. While the open-work dial endows the timepiece a fascinating look, the aesthetic contributes to its record-breaking svelteness.

Price: €440,000 (\$\$628,000)

HUBLOT BIG BANG INTEGRATED

Hublot is not a brand that shies away from baring it all – it has numerous open-work and skeleton models. The Big Bang Integrated in yellow gold drips with glamour and flamboyance. The heft of its 42mm case in 18K yellow gold with matching bracelet will not go unnoticed. Although the gilded sheen imbues the watch with old-school regality, this is a wholly modern and sportive offering. The taut lines and muscular profile are complemented by an open-work dial that teases with a peek at its self-winding chronograph movement. The watch comes with 72 hours of power reserve. It brims with personality and demands the same of its owner. At this year's Watches & Wonders exhibition, Hublot also released three new Big Bang Integrated models in indigo blue, sandy beige and jungle green.

Price: \$79,400



RICHARD MILLE RM 88 AUTOMATIC TOURBILLON SMILEY

The RM 88 Automatic Tourbillon Smiley's three-dimensional dial looks like a miniature pop-art display and is sure to elicit some smiles. Universal symbols of joy – the smiley face, rainbows, fluffy clouds, a pineapple and a radiant sun – occupy the open-work dial in gilded, vivid colours. Besides looking irresistibly adorable, the decorative components perform functional duties as artfully crafted bridges that hold the movement in place. A highly complex timepiece, the watch is bookended by a bezel and caseback made of ATZ white ceramic, a highly scratch-resistant material that is second only to diamond in hardness. The watch is driven by a skeletonised automatic tourbillon movement featuring a cutting-edge power transmission system that enhances performance and energy efficiency.

Limited to 50 pieces. Price upon request.

Outfit: Rubber weave top, leather trousers and leather slippers, by Bottega Veneta.
Watch: Hublot Big Bang Integrated.

NORQAIN
SWISS MADE WATCHES

WILD ONE

THE ULTIMATE HIGH-PERFORMANCE SPORTS WATCH

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Time was when watches for women felt like an afterthought. The range was limited and choices not plentiful. Women are increasingly coming into their own as serious horology lovers who care about movements as much as they do about design, and who are willing to spend big money on acquiring timepieces they like, even those designed for men. From artfully set gems to elegant straps inspired by historical patterns, here are some choice picks.

IT'S HER TIME

by WONG KIM HOH



OMEGA DE VILLE MINI TRESOR

Omega has just added new iterations to the De Ville collection, the Mini Tresor. Designed for smaller wrists, the new models have 26mm cases. Although compact, they boast eye-catching designs and are fashioned from materials including steel and Moonshine Gold, Omega's proprietary 18K gold alloy. One of the main distinguishing features of some of the models is the Toile de Jouy strap. Toile de Jouy refers to fabric designed with landscapes or figures which originated in the south-east of Versailles in France in the 18th century. There are three designs: black butterfly, red floral and blue sea. On some models, the straps can be wrapped twice around the wrist. Besides an enamel dial with elegant Roman numerals, these quartz watches also boast cases with diamond-paved curves. Price: \$6,200 to \$32,950



GUCCI G-TIMELESS DANCING BEES TOURBILLON

Italian luxury house Gucci, well known for its high fashion, is getting serious about watchmaking, a business it has been in since 1972. This model is from its 2022 haute horlogerie collection, combining advanced watchmaking expertise and superb gem-setting skills. Diamond-studded, it is an eye-popper of a watch, with opals skilfully set atop a mother-of-pearl dial. The tourbillon is surrounded by a dozen bees – a symbol of royalty and fertility – which move when the watch is strapped on. Available in white or yellow gold bracelets, or alligator straps. Price upon request.



IWC PORTOFINO PERPETUAL CALENDAR

Fancy the smallest perpetual calendar watch in IWC's collections? Then the brand's latest Portofino models – with 40mm cases – might be right up your alley. There are two iterations: one in 18K 5N gold and the other in stainless steel – the first Portofino with a perpetual calendar in stainless steel. Both models are fitted with the in-house 82650 calibre movement, visible through the transparent sapphire glass back. They feature automatic winding with ceramic components and a power reserve of 60 hours. The calendar displays not just the date, weekday and month, but also boasts the brand's moon phase indication which is so precise that you need to have it adjusted by only one day in 577.5 years. Price: \$34,800 (stainless steel), \$50,300 (gold)

Outfit: Velvet dress, by Moschino. Watch: Omega De Ville Mini Tresor.



NORQAIN ADVENTURE SPORT 37MM DLC BLACK DIAMONDS

Fitted with an animal-friendly rubber strap, this is a watch built for the great outdoors. It has a stainless steel case body coated with hardy diamond-like carbon (DLC). It will, however, not look out of place at a stylish soiree, thanks to 60 black diamonds totalling 0.84 carats studded over the steel bezel. Fitted with the Norqain NN08 calibre which is water-resistant to 100m and has a 38-hour power reserve, the watch has a black dial bearing the weave-like Norqain pattern, as well as hands, indexes and logo plated with rose gold. It is limited to 75 pieces. Price: \$6,280



BIG BANG ONE CLICK KING GOLD RAINBOW 33MM

If you are looking for a statement piece, this is it. The 33mm case is fashioned from 18K King Gold, and the dial studded with 232 coloured gemstones, including rubies, sapphires and amethysts, playfully arranged in chromatic gradation. The bezel is crafted from 18K white gold and set with 42 baguette-cut coloured gemstones.

Fitted with the HUB1120 self-winding movement, the watch is water-resistant to 100m and has a power reserve of 40 hours. It comes with Hublot's One Click quick-switch strap system, which allows easy changing between the accompanying black rubber and multi-coloured alligator leather straps. Price: \$104,600

START TIME STOP

All you need to know about the chronograph

by TOM CHNG



The A. Lange & Söhne 1815 Rattrapante in platinum is limited to 200 pieces.

Chronographs are cool. Their dials look stylishly complicated. They are interactive: a long, central second hand stands at attention waiting to snap into action at the push of a button. They offer a view like no other: the movement architecture of a well-made chronograph is as good as horology offers.

A chronograph is basically a stopwatch. Usually operated by two pushers on either side of the crown, one to start and stop the mechanism, and another to reset it. The first modern chronograph was invented by Louis Moinet in 1816, and used to time horse races for the French king. It was popularised in the early 20th century in the wristwatch form that we know and love today. While the chronograph is the overarching complication, the watches can be differentiated by their purposes and styles.

CLASSIC CHRONOGRAPH

This is the purest chronograph of them all. Usually reserved for dress timepieces, this chronograph is often manual winding with two sub-dials, with a focus on form and proportions. The unobstructed view of the chronograph mechanism is most appreciated by seasoned collectors. Best-in-class examples include the A. Lange & Sohne Datograph, Cartier CPCP Monopusher Chronograph, and Vacheron Constantin Cornes de Vache.

DRIVER'S CHRONOGRAPH

These sporty icons exploded onto the scene in the 1960s when Rolex Daytona, Heuer Monaco, and Zenith El Primero became household names. Featuring colourful livery, triple sub-dials and automatic winding, these driver's chronographs also come with a tachymeter useful for calculating average speeds through sectors of a lap. Worn by legends such as film producer Steve McQueen and actor Paul Newman, today's collectors still go gaga over this exciting category of timekeepers.

PILOT'S CHRONOGRAPH

When darting through the skies at 800kmh, legibility is key. For that reason, pilot's chronographs have dials with high contrast, as well as white and thickly illuminated Arabic numerals set against a flat black dial. Oversized crowns have also become a tradition of the pilot's chronograph so as to allow ease of use even when gloves are worn. Major players of the genre include IWC, Breitling and Bell & Ross.

GIRARD-PERREGAUX



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**SPACE AND BEYOND**

One of the most fabled chronographs is without a doubt the Omega Speedmaster Professional, more famously dubbed the Moonwatch.

Having fulfilled stringent requirements and passed rigorous tests, the Speedmaster was trusted by astronauts on all six moon landing missions and has earned its place in the history of space exploration. Over the decades, various iterations of the iconic Moonwatch were made to commemorate the achievement of a moon landing. The 2022 MoonSwatch by Omega and Swatch is a playful spin on this icon, availing the design and spirit of the Omega Speedmaster to a larger audience.

SPLIT-SECONDS CHRONOGRAPH

If complexity is the game, then the split-seconds chronograph, or rattrapante, reigns supreme. It allows the timing of two consecutive events, as if two chronographs are built into one. The demanding execution gives such timepieces their exceptional horological value.

Notable creators of such chronographs are Patek Philippe and Audemars Piguet, which took the rattrapante concept a step further with its 2015 Royal Oak Concept Laptimer. The piece was created with seven-time Formula One world champion Michael Schumacher.

From the aesthetic angle of the classic chronograph to the rich heritage of the historical Moonwatch, the trusty mechanical stopwatch captivates. Chronographs are admired more for aesthetic or sentimental reasons than practical ones and rarely used for their intended purposes these days. So perhaps, the next time you are going about your day doing something mundane like cooking eggs or hiking, let the chronograph be a part of the activity.



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GIRARD-PERREGAUX LAUREATO ABSOLUTE CHRONOGRAPH ASTON MARTIN F1 EDITION

Earlier this year, Girard-Perregaux released an edgy limited-edition model, the Laureato Absolute Chronograph Aston Martin F1 Edition. A groundbreaking watch, it has a unique 44mm case fashioned from carbon elements of two F1 race cars mixed with titanium powder. The dial boasts the unique Aston Martin Green hue, attained by painstakingly applying paint 21 times. There is also cross-hatching to produce the diamond-like patterns which can be traced back to the Aston Martin "AM" badge of 1921. Also unique is the strap, made from a material comprising fluororubber and carbon. It is fitted with the GP03300-1058 movement, the intricacy of which can be admired through the transparent caseback. Price: \$38,300

More recently, Girard-Perregaux released another handsome green Laureato albeit not a chronograph – a 42mm iteration with a Clous de Paris dial paired with black hands and markers filled with luminescent material. The smart steel tonneau case is paired with an integrated steel bracelet. It is powered by the Calibre GP01800, which has a power reserve of 54 hours and is water-resistant to 100m. Price: \$19,800

Top picks for fans of chronograph timepieces

by WONG KIM HOH

Outfit: Printed single-breasted suit, cotton shirt and leather ankle boots, by Alexander McQueen. Watch: Girard-Perregaux Laureato 42mm Green.



TAG HEUER CARRERA CHRONOGRAPH

The Carrera is synonymous with racing and Tag Heuer recently released what it has billed as the "ultimate driver's watch". The Carrera Chronograph is a luxe variant which slickly imbues the modern Carrera silhouette with a retro vibe. With a tasteful dial layout, the 42mm watch has a black sunray-brushed dial and elegant gold-plated sub-dials. The case is fashioned from solid 18K 3N yellow gold with matching gold pushers, indexes, hands and crown. Driving the timepiece is the Calibre Heuer 02, which comes with a power reserve of 80 hours. The watch comes with a black alligator strap with a gold pin buckle. Price: \$30,350



PATEK PHILIPPE REF 5470P-001 CHRONOGRAPH

Having introduced the first pocket watch chronograph in 1856, Patek Philippe's commanding mastery of this category of watches is distinguished by creations that ooze elegance and gravitas. The Ref 5470P-001 marks an important milestone in the brand's savoir faire in chronographs. Housed in 41mm platinum, this is the brand's first wristwatch chronograph that can measure and display time to 1/10th of a second. The watch has two central chronograph hands: one for the regular display, and another for the 1/10th second display. The watch's true star is its new hand-wound movement, the Calibre CH 29-535, which has an additional chronograph mechanism to measure ultra-precise elapsed time. The movement is reworked to tick at a higher frequency, offering greater precision and stability.

Price: 380,000 Swiss francs (\$554,000)

A. LANGE & SOHNE 1815 RATTRAPANTE

Two years ago, A. Lange & Sohne launched the 1815 Rattrapante in the brand's proprietary alloy, Honey Gold. Limited to 100 pieces, the stunning watch was the brand's first pure split-seconds chronograph. The Glashütte watchmaker has released another version, this time in platinum and limited to 200 pieces. A normal chronograph allows the wristwatch to function like a stopwatch, but a rattrapante does one better. It has two chronograph hands which can, for instance, time different sprinters in a race. It has a handsome Teutonic face, with blue hands and a railway-track minute face on a white or argente dial. The manually wound movement comprises 365 parts housed in a 41.2mm case. The watch's heart is the Calibre L101.2, which boasts a 58-hour power reserve. The intricate movement – with its hand-engraved bridges – can be admired through the transparent caseback. Price upon request.



TISSOT PRX AUTOMATIC CHRONOGRAPH

Tissot has added a new model to its popular PRX collection, and it is a standout. Vintage-inspired, the 42mm satin-finished steel PRX Automatic Chronograph is a smart-looking timepiece with clean lines and slick polishing. Powered by a Valjoux A05 H31 movement visible through the open caseback, it has a classic three-six-nine chronograph dial layout, a power reserve of 60 hours, and is water-resistant to 100m. There are two variants – a panda (left), silver white dial with black sub-dials) and a blue reverse panda (far left). The indices are coated with photo-luminescent Super-LumiNova and the watches come with an interchangeable quick-release bracelet. Price: \$2,550



MY DREAM WATCH

If money was no object, and availability not an issue, what watch released this year would you get? Four watch lovers talk about their dream timepiece

by WONG KIM HOH

MR DUTA ALAMSYAH, 41, hotelier

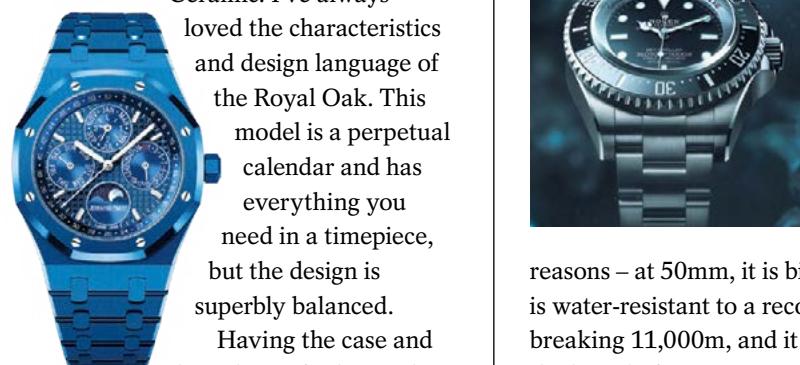
The last watch I bought is: Tudor Black Bay 58 Bronze (Boutique Edition). Bronze is an atypical material to be used for an entire watch. It also changes over time, and I like the idea of the watch growing with you, acquiring its own unique characteristic. It is solidly built and for its price – \$6,390 – is a solid value proposition.

My dream watch this year:

The Audemars Piguet Royal Oak Perpetual Calendar Blue Ceramic. I've always loved the characteristics and design language of the Royal Oak. This model is a perpetual calendar and has everything you need in a timepiece,

but the design is superbly balanced.

Having the case and bracelet crafted entirely in ceramic (as opposed to having a leather or rubber strap) takes the appeal of the watch to another level. The blue is also mesmerising.



MR N.D. CHOW, 47, Tokyo-based photographer

The last watch I bought is: A gold Rolex Oyster Perpetual 14208 with black dial. I've always wanted a gold Rolex and this watch straddles vintage and modern nicely. It also has a black dial, which is rare.

My dream watch this year:

Rolex Deepsea Challenge in titanium. It's a historical watch for Rolex for several



MS EMILYN LEE, 46, senior client services director

The last watch I bought is: A Jaeger-LeCoultre Tribute to Reverso 1931 with olive green dial. I have always loved a rectangular watch and have the earlier JLC Memory. I am drawn to the unique olive green hue of this piece. A lot of effort has also gone into coming up with the matching leather strap – from the right slimness to the correct shade of green (dyeing leather green is not easy) to the immaculate stitches.

My dream watch this year:

The Omega Speedmaster

Baguette with rainbow bezel.

That is one stunning piece. Not only is its bezel laid out in a rainbow palette, but its markers are also of different colours.



MR GEORGE TAN, 49, civil servant

The last watch I bought is: The Patek Philippe Annual Calendar Ref 5205R-011, released this year. I love the rose gold case and the beautiful olive green dial. The combo is lovely. The day, date and month apertures arranged along the arc of a circle also make the piece stand out.

My dream watch this year:

Being an Omega fan, I would love to own the latest release – the Omega Chrono Chime. It's a rattrapante, or split-seconds



chronograph, coupled with a minute repeater – two of the most complicated watch functions in one watch. It's Omega's way of telling the world it is also capable of high complications.

THE IWC TOP GUN.



Big Pilot's Watch 43

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