

# THE LUXURY OF TIME

A watch is not about simply telling the time. If you have a discerning eye for interesting horlogerie, then you'd buy a timepiece that is an embodiment of art. As a general rule of thumb with regard to timepieces, the more functions a watch has, the more valued and coveted it is. Tourbillon (the highest expression of horological virtue), moon phases, time of year, chronographs are all among the undisputedly desired functions in a time teller that epitomises master craftsmanship, ingenuity and beauty.

Undeniably, luxury watches take inspiration from art. Master artisans and maisons, whose dedication, precision and talent – often involving elaborate imagery rendered in enamel, engraving, micro-painting, marquetry – are what create signature watch styles and set the price tag for such timepieces. These are greatly valued as works of art with exquisite mechanisms.

by Smitha Sadanandan





Piaget's High Jewellery white gold pocket watch set with diamonds and sapphires is an exceptional piece. At a time when the past is more than ever the inspiration for fashion, there is something delightful about rediscovering unique pieces that have successfully interpreted the spirit of their age.

## COLLECTOR'S PIECES

*The decision to buy one such coveted timepiece versus the latest on the shelf always begins and ends with the desire to own a masterpiece extraordinaire – a symbol of ingenuity and craftsmanship – from a brand that has perfected its art of watch-making over the years.*



*This Vacheron Constantin pocket watch is a treasure that features split-second chronograph, perpetual calendar, moon phases, minute-repeater on three gongs, grande sonnerie chiming the hours and quarters on three gongs, petite sonnerie chiming the quarters. Its back bears an enameled coat-of-arms of King Fouad I since it was presented by the Swiss Colony in Egypt to him in 1929.*



The Lange Zeitwerk from A Lange & Söhne with the designation Handwerkskunst has risen to a new level. The dial in black-rhodiumed white gold is endowed with an elaborate tremblage engraving and has the highly complex manufacture calibre L043.4. This series is limited to 30 watches; distributed exclusively through the seven boutiques worldwide.



The Atlas Chronograph Automatic timepiece from Tiffany & Co. in stainless steel with black and silver dial, and black alligator strap features a 40 mm case, chronograph function, mechanical movement with automatic winding and date window. The Atlas Chronograph Automatic is water resistant to 100 metres/328 feet (10 bars). Photo Credit: © Tiffany & Co.



The Big Bang Ferrari 1000-piece limited edition fuses style and materials along with mechanics unique to Hublot and Ferrari. With no fewer than 330 components, oscillating at a frequency of 28,800 vibrations per hour, the column wheel and dual horizontal coupling on the dial side of the timepiece appear in a new constellation reminiscent of Ferrari alloy wheel rims.



The El Toro high-tech perpetual calendar from Ulysse Nardin with a dual time function and the legendary, in-house developed and manufactured, self-winding movement has passed the tests of time. The only perpetual calendar that adjusts forward and backward in seconds over the quick corrector position of a single crown, even in the year 2100.



For the first time ever, the Pilot's watch from IWC Schaffhausen shows the date and month digitally in large numerals, inspired by instruments – like the altimeter – found in the cockpit. The four-year leap-year cycle is also shown digitally in the Spitfire Perpetual Calendar Digital Date-Month. It has a satin-finished surface on the 18k red gold case.



Loyalty to its historic origins perfectly blended with elegance and sophistication: these are the characteristic features of the new special edition Radiomir 8 Days GMT Oro Rosso from Panerai. The classic aesthetic of the Radiomir, here in red gold in the 45mm size, is combined with an original and highly sophisticated version of the P.2002 movement.



## WHIMSICAL HEIGHTS

*Art and life constantly inspire each other, and from these stem stunning creations that tell the time. Dial artistry fuelled by imagination takes visual poetry to whimsical heights.*



Happy Fish from Chopard's famous Happy Sport collection appears in two new versions. It transcends the multi-coloured magic of the ocean depths with its delicate little moving clown fish. The new Happy Fish watches are each home to three little clown fish in 18k rose or white gold, set with yellow sapphires, tsavorites, rubies and onyxes.

The Dior VIII Grand Bal has been conceived like a haute couture collection depicting day dressing, cocktail models and grand galas. The Grand Bal 'Resille' is set in white gold with diamonds in a resille pattern with the case and bracelet in black high-tech ceramic and steel, bezel set with diamonds and ceramics and black mother-of-pearl dial.

Van Cleef & Arpels pays tribute to the Legendary Balls with four exquisite creations. The Bal Black & White timepiece represents the Art Deco architecture of the city: onyx background, mother-of-pearl marquetry and gold-sculpting. The passing of time is shown by the graceful turning of the dancers animated by a 24h Poetic Complication.

*Métiers d'Art - Les Univers Infinis: Shells and starfish form a luminous ochre-tinged seabed swept over by slender, light skeletonised hands. The interlocking shells and starfish stage a fascinating dance, which, depending on the light, showcases various details of their anatomy. Crafted using engraving and champlevé enamelling techniques, the dial of this watch is inspired by the work of the artist Maurits Cornelis Escher.*



Les Univers Infinis Series from Vacheron Constantin - Dove (above), Shells and Starfish (below)



The dial of the Dove watch features a depiction of doves in flight, sublimated by the fine watchmaking arts: engraving, gem-setting, Grand Feu enamelling and guilloché worked are intertwined like tessellations to form a resplendent décor.



Piaget unfolds time and the four seasons through glorious interpretations in its Limelight Dancing Light collection. The autumn edition bears a plethora of yellow, pink and white gold, polished or set with gems, placed on top of a violet mother-of-pearl covered dial.





## SAY IT WITH DIAMONDS

*Diamonds are a girl's best friend. The allure of diamond and gemstone encrusted designs make these watches as much a statement jewellery as their mechanical exquisiteness. Steal the spotlight in twinkling timepieces that are engaging conversation starters.*

Damiani pays homage to China and to the Dragon year with its new Mimosa Dragon luxury line. The design pays tribute to the Italian craftsmanship

with its 46 claw sets handmade one by one on the bezel around a dragon silhouette. The watch is set in 18k white gold with 46 white diamonds,

natural mother-of-pearl with brilliant-cut diamonds dial and white galuchat with 18k gold deployante buckle set with five diamonds.



Piaget pushes the boundaries of excellence, surprise and wonder to create the Limelight Paris with hundreds of brilliant or pear-cut diamonds. It evokes the twinkling lights of Paris's most symbolic landmark – the Eiffel Tower.



The Happy Diamonds collection from Chopard explores the symbolism of the figure 8, considered to be a token of balance, prosperity and luck. This elegant watch is set in 18k white gold with diamonds, of which one is a mobile diamond.



Piccolina's original gem-set patterns add to a glamorous design. The gently rounded shapes express de Grisogono's creative spirit. These timepieces are available in various colours covered with emeralds, rubies and diamonds.



The Oval Diamond Cocktail Watch from Tiffany is inspired by the Venetian mirror frame. The case features 172 round brilliant diamonds, while its dial has 137 diamonds. The timepiece comes in 18k white gold with a black satin strap. Photo Credit: © Tiffany & Co.



The Alacria Royal from Carl F. Bucherer comes in four jewelled versions with glittering precious stones such as diamonds, blue and orange-coloured sapphires, rubies and emeralds. These are limited to just 25 pieces per design worldwide.



With 310 diamonds, including 58 flame-cut diamonds and 54 brilliant-cut ones on the case, set in 18k white gold, the Kalla Haute Couture à Pampilles from Vacheron Constantin illustrates between art and craftsmanship. ©

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