

APRIL 2017 – BASELWORLD SPECIAL

CALIBRE

THE MAGAZINE FOR LUXURY WATCH LOVERS



ON THE HORIZON

*We salute the arrival of a new vanguard
of horological gems fresh from Baselworld*

WATCHES of
SWITZERLAND
SINCE 1924


BY APPOINTMENT TO
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
MAY 18 1887

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MAY 18 1887
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LUXURY
SINCE 1778

THE YACHT-MASTER

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OYSTER PERPETUAL YACHT-MASTER 40


ROLEX

WATCH FEATURED SUBJECT TO STOCK AVAILABILITY

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SPRING FEVER

This is one of the best times of the year to be involved in the luxury watch industry. Following on from the excitement of the annual Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie (SIHH) in January, spring is the season when we herald the arrival of more great watches from the top Swiss brands at Baselworld, the largest watch and jewellery fair on the planet, which traditionally falls in March.

This year marked the 100th anniversary of Baselworld, and it was also the first time that we had broadcast live from the event, in partnership with *GQ* Magazine (much as we did at SIHH). Once again, it was an honour to speak to a host of renowned industry experts and admire so many of the new watches up close. I'm pleased to report that our coverage was a roaring success – turn to page 7 to read more.

Since we got back, we've been busy capturing the essence of Baselworld in this digital issue of *Calibre*. In the pages of this magazine, you'll come face to face with our selection of the incredible new timepieces from the fair. So sit back and enjoy the issue! And, as ever, thank you for your continued support.

BRIAN DUFFY
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, AURUM HOLDINGS

READ ALL ABOUT IT



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Patek Philippe's Aquanaut turns 20 this year – head to page 4 to discover more



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ON THE INSIDE
Get to grips with the new watch movements unveiled at Baselworld on page 5



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ADMIRE THE VIEW
We pick out the best new watches from Basel in our cover feature on page 8

PATEK PHILIPPE

CROWNING GLORY

IN 2017, PATEK PHILIPPE MARKS 20 YEARS OF ITS ORIGINAL AQUANAUT REF 5060A, A SPORTING ICON

This year, Patek Philippe's Aquanaut sports watch comes to the fore as it marks its 20th anniversary. The new Ref 5168G is the first men's Aquanaut to be cast in 18-carat white gold and, at 42mm, it's also the largest watch in the line. But the elegantly rounded octagonal bezel, so familiar to Aquanaut fans, remains unchanged.

Patek is calling the new dial colour 'night blue' – a fitting name as the colour gradually darkens to black towards the edge of the dial. Other details include the 18-carat white gold applied Arabic numerals and five-minute markers, which are coated in Super-LumiNova for added visibility. The watch also has a new night blue strap that mirrors the dial's embossed checkerboard pattern (£27,990).

For female Aquanaut fans, there are two new Luce Haute Joaillerie models. Ref 5062 (£135,810) is an

18-carat rose gold piece set with brilliant-cut diamonds on the bezel, dial and even the hands, while Ref 5072 (£63,380) has an engraved mother-of-pearl dial and a bezel set with 40 baguette diamonds. Both feature pearly beige straps. Ask in-store for more details.



Patek Philippe's Aquanaut turns 20 with tribute models for gents (right) and ladies



Blancpain's Villeret collection is the epitome of classic watchmaking, as demonstrated by the new Villeret Semainier 8 Jours. It features the line's familiar double-stepped case, here in 18-carat red gold, alongside a serpentine blue steel date hand, a twin date window, day-of-the-week indicator and, most interestingly, a 53-week calendar. The 42mm case has Blancpain's patented under-lug correctors, so indications can be adjusted simply using your finger. Inside ticks the automatic Calibre 3738G2, a beautiful hand-finished movement that's visible through the sapphire crystal case back (£26,470).

TAG HEUER

Flying colours

THE LINK LADY IS UPDATED WITH COLOURFUL NEW DIAL OPTIONS IN PALE PINK OR BLUE – THE SHADE OF THE SEASON



Last year, TAG Heuer pleased its female fans with the launch of the new Link Lady, a stunning iteration of its popular Link watch. When it first launched as a men's collection in 1987, the Link's signature feature was its steel bracelet with S-shaped links (hence the watch's name), which was built for ultimate comfort on the wrist. The 2016 quartz Link Lady retained the bracelet design of the original but was aimed at daintier wrists with its 32mm case size. This year, TAG Heuer has expanded the Link Lady collection with two colourful models: the choice of a navy blue sunray (left, £1,800) or a pink mother-of-pearl dial. There is also a white-dial option with a rose gold-plated bezel.

NEW CALIBRES

On the beat

WE ROUND UP THE SIGNIFICANT NEW IN-HOUSE CALIBRES UNVEILED AT THIS YEAR'S BASELWORLD

Only a handful of luxury watch brands have the ability to create in-house movements from the ground up. They sink millions into development, and some, as was revealed at this year's Baselworld, are even striking deals to share their expertise. Several years ago, Breitling and Tudor embarked on just such a collaboration, which came to fruition at this year's fair (see below). Here are some of the big movers and shakers in the world of movement manufacture.



TUDOR HERITAGE BLACK BAY CHRONO

Among the big news at this year's Baselworld was the announcement that Tudor and Breitling have been working together to share their respective movement specialities for several years now – borne out of Tudor's desire to create a modern and reliable chronograph movement that it could offer at an affordable price. The partnership has now spawned the MT58L3 column-wheel chronograph movement, which is featured in Tudor's new Heritage Black Bay Chrono. Based on the innovative Breitling B01 movement first launched in 2009, it is COSC-certified and has a 70-hour power reserve (see page 17, £3,430). In return, Tudor is supplying its own automatic MT5612 movement to Breitling, which the brand has modified into the three-hand B20 calibre housed in the Superocean Héritage II (overleaf).



BREITLING NAVITIMER RATTRAPANTE

Breitling's Navitimer Rattrapante houses Calibre B03, a new patented in-house split-second chronograph movement. This powers two superimposed central chronograph hands, one of which can be stopped to measure an intermediate (split) time, before 'catching up' (rattraper in French) with the first one sweeping onwards. The watch comes on a leather or rubber strap, or a steel bracelet (£9,720).



ZENITH DEFY EL PRIMERO 21

Zenith's seminal El Primero has been the world's most accurate series-produced chronograph since 1969, and this year it enters the 21st century with the Defy El Primero 21. Its chronograph hand does a full rotation of the dial every second when activated, achieved via a double-barrel COSC-certified in-house movement that reaches 360,000 vibrations an hour – enabling it to measure time to the nearest hundredth of a second (£9,900).

ROLEX DAYTONA

GOING FOR GOLD

THE OYSTER PERPETUAL COSMOGRAPH DAYTONA NOW COMES IN GOLD ON AN OYSTERFLEX STRAP



For automotive fans, there are few timepieces as collectable as the Rolex Oyster Perpetual Cosmograph Daytona. Since its launch in 1963, the chronograph has undergone numerous updates – and this year Rolex has launched a trio of handsome Cosmograph Daytona models cast in 18-carat yellow, white or Everose gold.

The watches are all fitted to the brand's Oysterflex bracelet, developed and patented by Rolex to offer the comfort and hypoallergenic properties of a rubber strap with the durability of a bracelet. Also new is the monobloc Cerachrom bezel – another Rolex patent – in black ceramic. Resistant to corrosion and virtually scratch-proof, it's perfect for life on and off the track, and features a tachymetric scale for measuring average speeds of up to 400 miles (or other unit) per hour. The yellow-gold model is £20,100.

KEY ANNIVERSARIES

A MOMENT IN TIME

IF THERE'S ONE THING LUXURY WATCH BRANDS LOVE TO SHOUT ABOUT, IT'S AN ANNIVERSARY. WE ROUND UP THE WATCHES CELEBRATING A MILESTONE AT THIS YEAR'S BASELWORLD

50 YEARS

ROLEX SEA-DWELLER

Anniversaries are often heralded with a great deal of fanfare in the luxury watch industry, but Rolex prefers to do things differently. The brand is famous for its low-key approach to key milestones, but it has pulled out all the stops for the 50th anniversary of its Sea-Dweller, launching a new iteration of the watch with a bolder 43mm Oyster Perpetual case and a new calibre 3235. Other design changes on the new Oyster Perpetual Sea-Dweller include the Cyclops lens over the date window at 3 o'clock (meaning the Deepsea is the only Oyster Professional without one). The name Sea-Dweller is also engraved in red on the black dial, in honour of the original model. Famously, this watch was designed with professional divers in mind, and this modern iteration is waterproof to a staggering 1220m, with a special helium escape valve that regulates the pressure accumulated in the case to prevent the crystal from popping off. The watch is crafted from 904L stainless steel, giving maximum protection against corrosion, and comes on Rolex's iconic, adjustable Oyster bracelet, coupled with an Oysterlock safety clasp – so the watch will never accidentally fall off your wrist during a dive (£8,350).



60 YEARS

OMEGA SPEEDMASTER MASTER RACING CHRONOMETER



Three models in the Omega anthology turn 60 this year: the Seamaster 300, the Railmaster and the Speedmaster. The brand is marking the occasion with the stunning 1957 Trilogy Limited Edition collection (see page 12). The Speedmaster line welcomes two new models for ladies and gents respectively – the Speedmaster 38mm and the Speedmaster Racing Master Chronometer (left, £6,240). The latter comes in steel or 18-carat Sedna gold.

BREITLING SUPEROCEAN HÉRITAGE II



Breitling's beloved Superocean diver's watch also turns 60 this year, and to celebrate the brand has introduced the new Superocean Héritage II. It now has a ceramic bezel, while the dial features the original Superocean logo. There's a choice of 42mm or 46mm case sizes in black, blue or bronze. Inside ticks the new COSC-certified Calibre B20, derived from Tudor's MT5612 movement (learn about the collaboration on page 5, £3,990).

LONGINES FLAGSHIP HERITAGE



Longines is marking the 60th anniversary of its quintessential dress watch, the Flagship, with a heritage collection in steel, yellow gold and rose gold. It's bumped up the case size to 38.5mm but kept the original font of the Flagship logo on the dial. There are 60 pieces of each of the gold models, while the steel version comes in a series of 1957 pieces (left, £1,390). A caravel – a Portuguese or Spanish sailing ship – is engraved on the back.



'WITH SOCIAL MEDIA, WE CAN BRING THE SHOW TO YOU'

by Brian Duffy

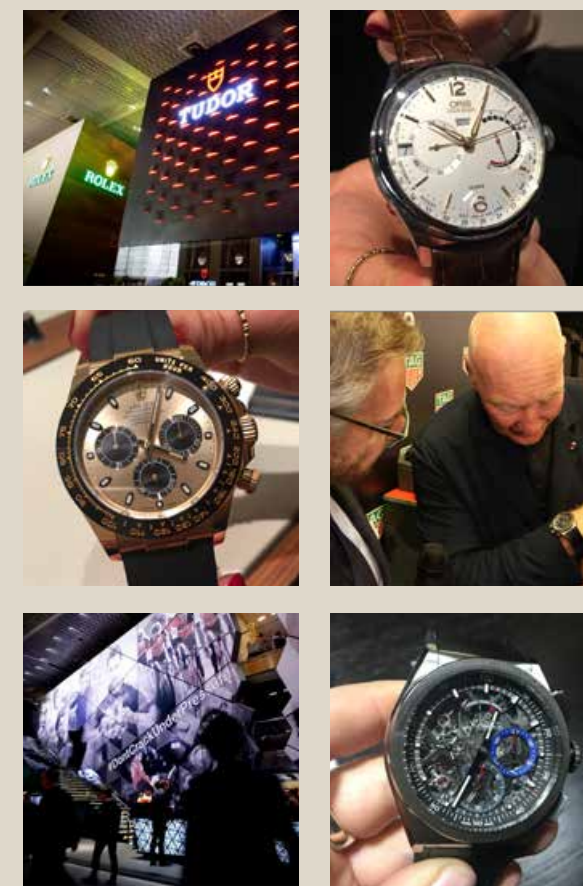
These are exciting times for us on social media. In January, the wonderful reaction to our coverage of SIHH made me glow with pride – so much so that I knew we had to do it again come Baselworld in March. For us, the world's largest watch and jewellery fair is an unmissable opportunity to get a close-up view of the latest launches from the world's finest brands.

So we teamed up with *GQ* Magazine once again to bring our followers two 30-minute panel discussions on Facebook Live, for which I was joined by my team of expert colleagues plus *GQ* Deputy Editor Bill Prince.

These live broadcasts were hugely insightful, as we presented our verdict on stunning new products right there in Basel, alongside in-depth trend analysis and exclusive interviews with the likes of Jean-Claude Biver (far right, centre) and Rolex expert James Dowling. It was a privilege to hear their thoughts, whether on watches or the industry as a whole.

We also posted regular updates on our Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest and YouTube channels, and I'm proud of that reach. Now that Baselworld is over, we're excited to digest our findings over the coming weeks. Keep checking our channels for all the latest updates, and please join in with the conversation. After all, your voice matters the most.

We were thrilled to be at Baselworld, covering the event for our Watches of Switzerland, Mappin & Webb and Goldsmiths channels



NOMOS GLASHÜTTE

A dose of California cool

German brand NOMOS Glashütte has launched a new capsule collection in its Club family, aimed at a younger generation who may be receiving their first mechanical timepiece for a special occasion. The youthful Club Campus line comes in three stainless steel iterations offering either a 36mm or a beefier 38mm case size. But the watch's most striking feature is the retro California dial configuration that uses both Roman and Arabic numerals alongside baton markers. While the 36mm models feature a white silver-plated dial, grey Super-LumiNova indices outlined in red and a grey velour strap, the Club 38mm Campus has blue markers outlined in red against a white dial. Lastly, there's the Club 38 Campus Nacht with its black dial, beige markers and blue highlights. We love that the case back on all versions can be engraved to make this a truly special gift (£1,000).



ON THE HORIZON

We focus on the new watches from Baselworld that are set to dominate the landscape – this year and beyond

WORDS Timothy Barber ILLUSTRATIONS Matt Murphy

The biggest event in the watch industry calendar hit its century this year – 1917 saw the launch of Basel's annual exhibition of Swiss productivity, with watches and jewellery then just a part of the show. Those who attended in decades gone by would no doubt be astounded by the glamour and scale of the modern exhibition – though they might be more surprised still to find themselves recognising many of the watches being launched, as Baselworld 2017 saw brands reflecting on their own history more than ever, and in some very stylish ways.

In particular, Omega's pitch-perfect celebration of a legendary trio of watches from 1957, TAG Heuer's rebirth of the Autavia (in

collaboration with its own fans, no less) and Blancpain's vintage-sized MIL-SPEC Fifty Fathoms were among the most talked-about watches of the show.

As brands like Zenith and Breitling demonstrate, innovation – in materials, in movement technology and in design – is never far away as a theme, and there's always new ground to be broken. But even in Zenith's super-high-frequency Defy, equal emphasis has been paid to a design that seems at once familiar and new.

The lesson of this year's Baselworld was that the feel, the look and the story of a watch are, right now, as important as the technology that's driving it.



PATEK PHILIPPE REF 5320G-001 PERPETUAL CALENDAR

Among the many things that Patek Philippe does better than just about anyone are complex movements and functions with dial designs of absolute simplicity, clarity and style. And that's never been more in evidence than in its vintage perpetual calendars, which opt for date/month windows over subdials – a historic style it returns to with the 5320G. Additionally, the dial shows the date, moon-phase, leap year and day/night – plenty of information, but effortlessly displayed. The historical theme is further emphasised by the layered, Art Deco style of the 18-carat white gold case and the 'syringe' hands, while a hint of rugged sportiness comes from the luminescent numerals on a creamy dial. This is exquisite, elegant, understated Patek at its best.

Price: £60,090



HUBLOT BIG BANG
44MM
(left)

Amid ever-more-complex skeletonised complications and avant-garde Ferrari-affiliated watches, it's easy to forget just how Hublot established its modern style a decade ago: with this, the classic Big Bang, a watch of absolutely matchless style. Normally found with a black dial, this time around it's added a modish twist with a sunray burst of austere grey-blue, complemented by a similarly toned case ring and strap. These days, blue watches are less a trend and more a genre all of their own – and this is one of the classiest of 2017.

Price: £10,700



ZENITH DEFY
EL PRIMERO 21
(right)

Front-line engineering meets serious masculinity – and a swerve in an exciting new direction – with the return of the 'Defy' name to Zenith. While a few brands have experimented with ultra-high-frequency watchmaking in the past decade, at Zenith this really makes sense – its legendary chronograph movement, the El Primero, is the most famous high-frequency engine. In the Defy, the normal 36,000 vibrations per hour rate is supercharged to a whopping 360,000 vibrations per hour, with the chrono seconds hand making a full rotation each second – and that means superior accuracy. Tie this to a titanium case, with skeletonised or solid silvered dial versions, and you have a new totem of the Zenith collection.

Price: £9,900

**OMEGA 1957 TRILOGY:
RAILMASTER**
(left)

You could say 1957 was a banner year not just for Omega but for professional tool watches in general, as the revered marque released a trio of future classics: the Speedmaster, the Seamaster 300 and the Railmaster. In the case of the latter, its name did not have the same longevity as its chronograph and diving watch brethren, though it was a fascinating piece in its own way. Designed for those working near electrical currents (such as railway mechanics), it was tough, antimagnetic and had a kind of utilitarian cool (shared by

similarly appointed contemporaries such as IWC's Ingenieur and Rolex's Milgauss). Those very same qualities are to the fore in the glorious re-edition Omega has created for the 1957 Trilogy.

The Trilogy watches are each available on their own or as part of a limited-edition box set. Omega even used laser-scanning techniques to analyse the case structures of the 1957 pieces, bringing them back to life with cleverly aged 'tropic' dials and designs that are lifted directly from the original drawings. The Railmaster was phased out in 1963, and its return reminds us just what an era-defining beauty it was.

Price: £5,040

**OMEGA 1957 TRILOGY:
SEAMASTER 300**
(centre)

While Omega had been making watches under the Seamaster banner since 1948, it was the 1957 Seamaster 300 that finally saw it fulfil the potential of its name as Omega's first modern diving watch. The forerunner of today's Seamaster Planet Ocean, the redoubtable 300 has made a return to the Omega collection in a style that carefully melds old and modern; with its much thinner rotating bezel, plus vintage logo and dial markings, it takes things right back to the source.

Price: £5,200

**OMEGA 1957 TRILOGY:
SPEEDMASTER**
(right)

Back in 1957, no one at Omega could have realised that the modern sports chronograph it was launching would take on the stratospheric (and beyond) reputation that it subsequently has – thanks in part to the role it played in so many Apollo space missions. While the recently created Speedmaster 57 refers back to the original, the Trilogy version recreates it magnificently, with three subdials rather than two, a slimmer bezel and historic logo and markings.

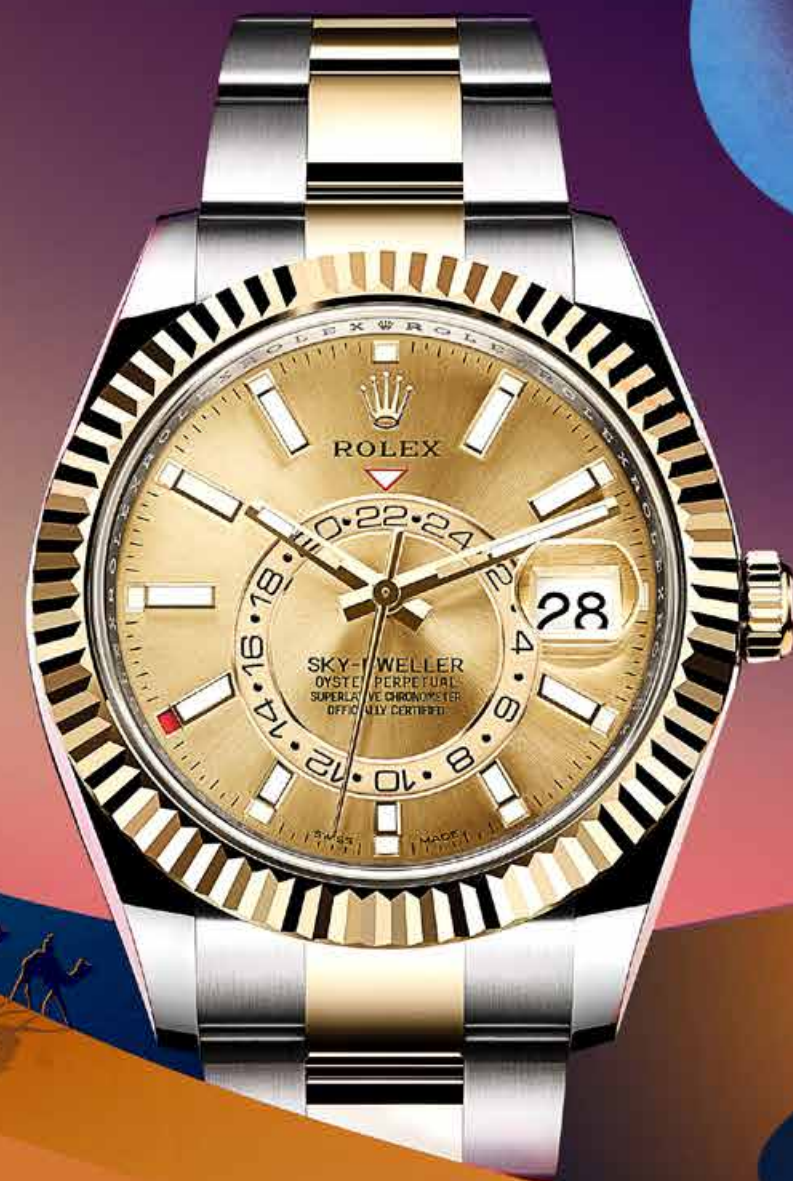
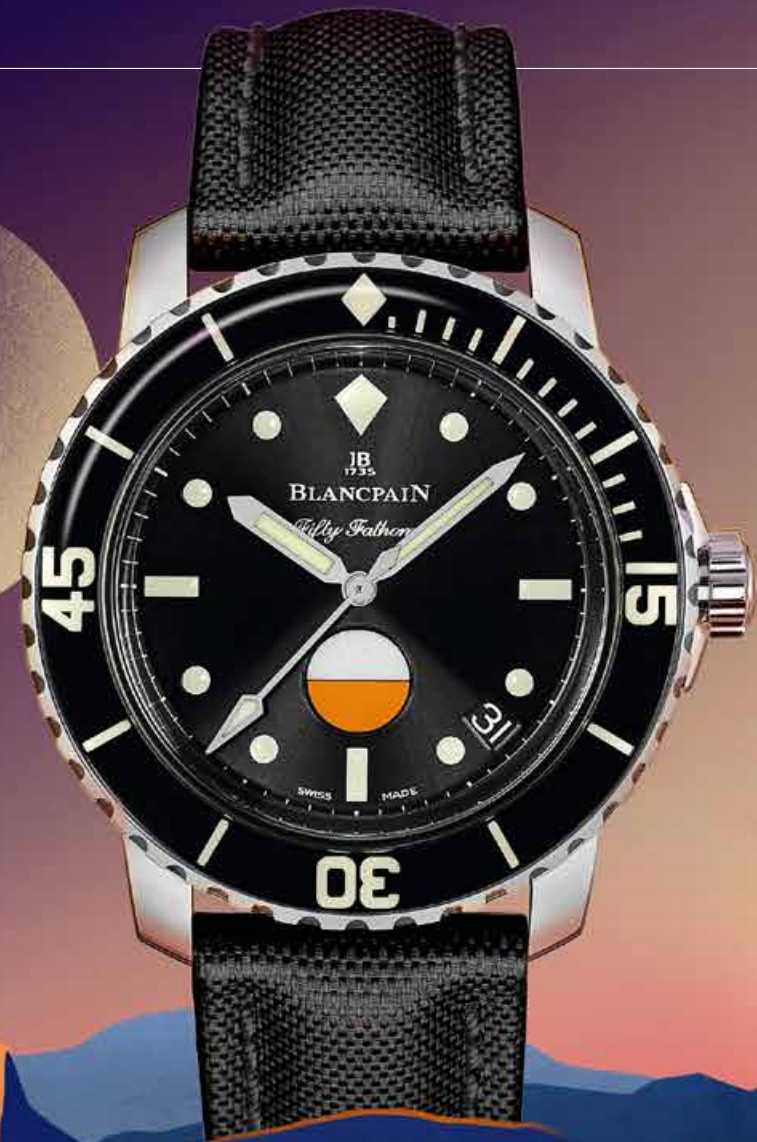
Price: £5,360



**BLANCPAIN TRIBUTE
TO FIFTY-FATHOMS
MIL-SPEC**

Rolex does not hold the monopoly on original, genre-defining diving watches – it shares the title with Blancpain. The Fifty Fathoms, with its rotating bezel locked against accidental turning and two-piece watertight case back, emerged in 1953. In 1957, Blancpain added another element for military-specification versions: an indication on the dial that would turn a white disc orange should any moisture seep in. Not only has Blancpain brought back the indicator for this limited edition, but it has also returned the Fifty Fathoms to its vintage size of 40mm. The result: one of the most characterful classic diving watches out there.

Price: £10,310



ROLEX SKY-DWELLER

The Sky-Dweller is Rolex at its most stylishly extrovert. It's both the most complicated watch Rolex makes – an innovative annual calendar with second time zone – and the model with the boldest wrist presence too: the thick fluted bezel, unusual dial configuration and 42mm proportions make it every inch the jet-setting statement piece, and all the more so in this new, bi-colour steel/yellow gold version. Rolex has further refined the Sky-Dweller package, with rectangular baton hour markers and longer hands adding a dynamic touch to the dial, as well as added luminescence with the crown's special Chromalight coating on the markers.

Price: £12,600



**BREITLING COLT
SKYRACER BREITLIGHT**
(left)

Breitling serves up the ultimate all-action pilot's watch with the new iteration of its Colt collection. These feature the brand's high-spec thermo-compensated 74 SuperQuartz movement, which guarantees accuracy to within 10 seconds per year. The 45mm case is made from Breitling's special high-tech polymer Breitlight, which is both lightweight – six times lighter than steel, in fact – and highly durable, framing a dial in the classic aviation mold: ultra-legible, with both 12 and 24-hour markings. Not so much a watch as a vital piece of kit for any aspiring stunt pilot.

Price: £1,810



**TUDOR HERITAGE
BLACK BAY CHRONO**
(right)

For Tudor, the Heritage Black Bay is the gift that keeps on giving – and it has spearheaded a wider fashion for vintage-themed diving watches reborn in suave, hipster-friendly modern styles. This is the line's first chronograph version, and it's an enticing mixture of diving watch markings and sportiness in a rugged-looking case (the screw-down chrono pushers are a nice detail). Inside is Calibre MT5813 – a bulletproof column-wheel chrono engine developed by Breitling for its Navitimer models and upgraded by Tudor with silicon hairspring and free-sprung balance, making this one of the best-value chronographs out there.

Price: £3,430

**LONGINES
CONQUEST VHP**

(left)

Longines is another marque taking the high-spec quartz route with the Conquest VHP, which is accurate to five seconds a year – a deviation of a mere 0.01 seconds a day, which puts it in the top tier. The brand has form when it comes to electronic timing, dating back to its cutting-edge sports timing equipment of the 1950s, while the VHP (Very High Precision) initials were first used in the 1980s. The Conquest VHP also boasts an impressive added function: if its hands are knocked out of position by magnetism or a shock impact, its 'gear position detection' system ensures they jump back to the correct point. The VHP comes in both three-hand and chronograph versions.

Price: £690

TAG HEUER AUTAVIA

(right)

The Heuer Autavia has been the great rediscovery of the collector world during the past two years. A handsome 1960s motorsport chronograph sharing many characteristics with Rolex's exalted Cosmograph Daytona, it has risen from forgotten classic to white-hot grail watch in no time, with auction prices soaring as a consequence. Picking up on this, TAG Heuer played a masterstroke, last year inviting fans to vote on which Autavia model to revive. This is the result: a panda-dial stunner reborn for our times, with all the robustness and in-house watchmaking of modern TAG Heuer at its best, and the evocative style and storied history of a vintage masterpiece.

Price: £3,900



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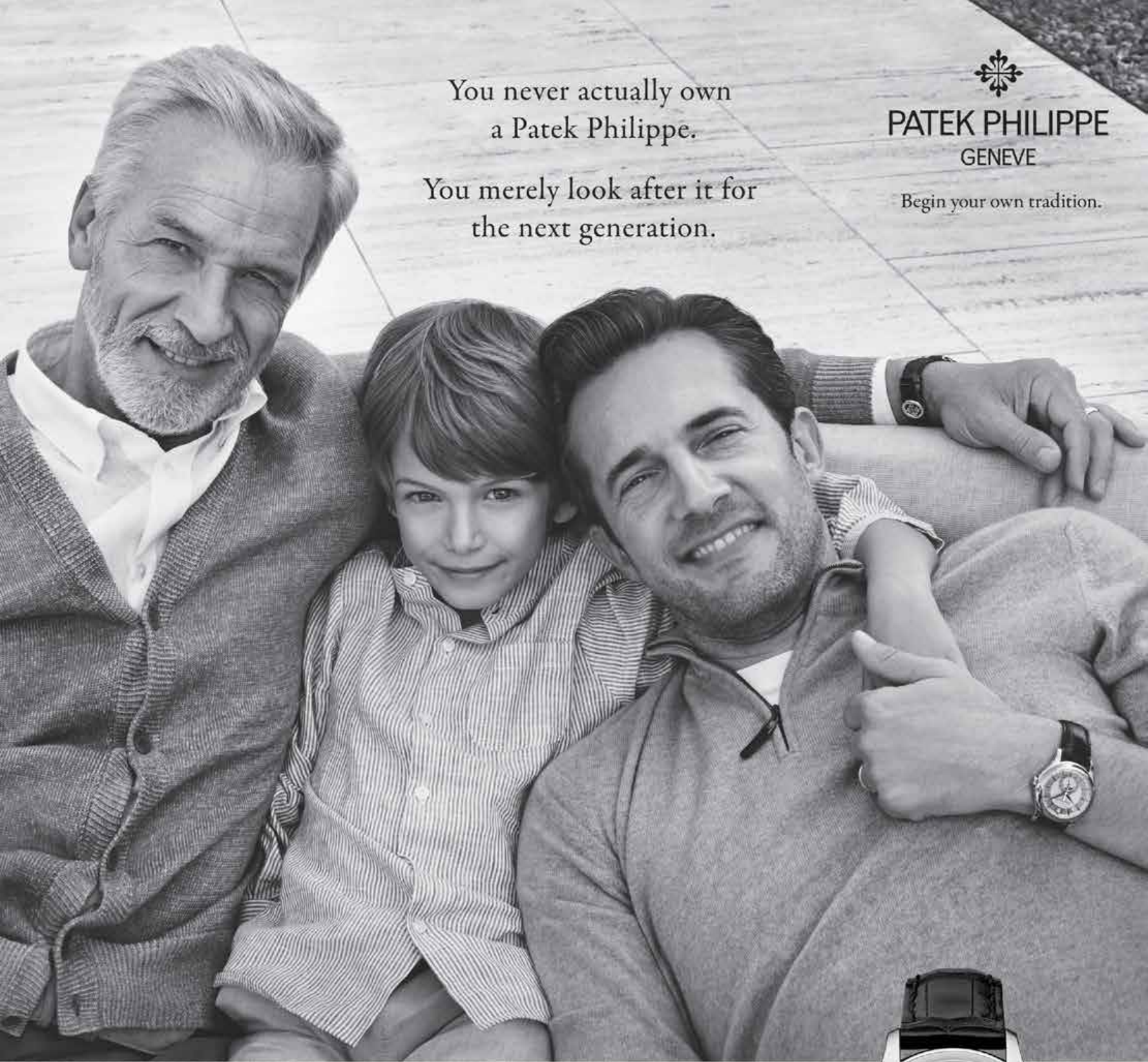
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