

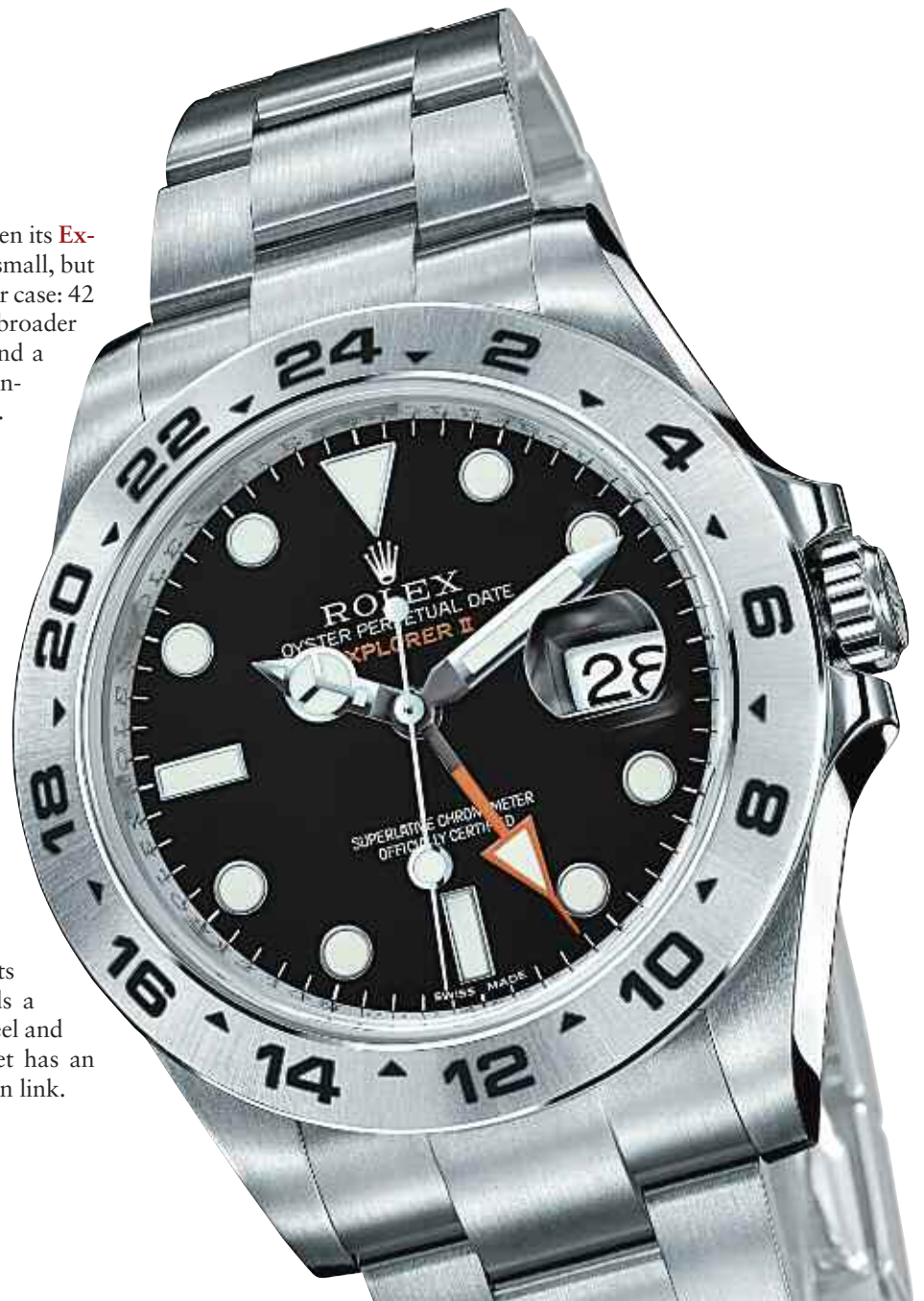
This is the first part of a two-part report on the Baselworld watch fair. More detailed analysis, as well as additional product highlights, will follow in the July-August issue. U.S. retail prices for some watches were not available as this issue went to press. — The Editors

Basel

WatchTime's annual round-up of new timepieces from the world's most important watch fair.

I Rolex

IT'S THE SAME, only different. Rolex has given its **Explorer II** a mini-facelift that comprises several small, but noticeable changes. First, the watch has a larger case: 42 mm versus the previous 40 mm. It also has broader hour and minute hands for better visibility and a new type of luminous paint on the hands and indices that Rolex has dubbed Chromalight. This material glows a cobalt blue color in the dark and, Rolex claims, retains a uniform level of luminosity for eight hours, which is almost twice as long as standard luminous paint. The most noticeable new — or rather, old — feature, is the GMT hand, which is now the same orange color used on the early Explorer II models (the watch was introduced in 1971) and has the same bold, elongated triangle tip as those first hands did. Recent Explorer II models have had slender, red GMT hands with small triangle tips. The movement, Caliber 3187, which makes its debut in this watch, is the newest version of Rolex's series of GMT calibers. The watch comes with a white or black dial. The hands on the latter model, as on the black-dialed Explorer II models of the 1970s, have black segments that blend in with the dial, giving the hands a floating effect. The case is made of stainless steel and is water-resistant to 100 meters. The bracelet has an Oysterlock folding clasp and a 5-mm extension link.



world

2011

Patek Philippe

THE NEW TRIPLE COMPLICATION REF. 5208P, whose movement, an automatic, contains 701 parts, is the second most complicated watch in Patek Philippe's current collection, surpassed only by the Sky Moon Tourbillon. The three complications in the 5208P are a minute repeater, a monopusher chronograph (the chronograph button is at 2 o'clock) and a perpetual calendar.

The watch, which contains Caliber R CH 27 PS QI, bears a resemblance to Ref. 5207, launched in 2008, which has a minute repeater, perpetual calendar and tourbillon. However, Patek says, that movement had to be extensively redesigned to accommodate the chronograph, which is sandwiched in between the base movement and the calendar. Among the tricky tasks was designing a detour for the cannon pinion, whose natural reach is cut off by the chronograph mechanism. To solve the problem, the movement designers severed the pinion above the base movement, shifted its rotary motion laterally and then routed it through the chronograph mechanism and back to the center of the calendar mechanism on top.

For the chronograph mechanism itself, Patek borrowed certain features from its Caliber CH R 27-525 PS, which is the world's thinnest split-seconds chronograph movement with a column wheel. Those features include the shape of the chronograph-wheel teeth, which

Patek says reduces wear and increases power-transmission efficiency.

The calendar is an "instantaneous" calendar (like that in Ref. 5207), meaning that the date changes almost exactly at midnight, plus or minus two minutes. The day, date and month are shown in three apertures at the top of the dial. The leap-year indicator sits at the bottom of the minute counter between 3 and 4 o'clock. There is a day-night indicator in the hour counter between 8 and 9 o'clock. The correctors for the day, date, month and moon-phase are located at four spots on the case sides. The watch comes with an ebony-and-gold stylus for making the calendar corrections.

The escapement and balance spring are made of a material called Silinvar, which is a derivative of silicon. The properties of this material, plus the unusual shapes of the escapement components, which are patented, make the escapement 30 percent more efficient than a conventional escapement made of steel, Patek claims.

The case is made of platinum and is 44 mm in diameter and 15.7 mm thick. It comes with two interchangeable backs: one of solid platinum and the other with a transparent sapphire window. The watch is not a limited edition but will be made in very small numbers and, at the outset, sold only at the Patek Philippe boutique in Geneva, for a price of about 825,000 Swiss francs.



*An exploded view of
Caliber R CH 27 PS QI*





Breguet

THE CLASSIQUE 5717 HORA MUNDI

from Breguet is a world-timer with a twist: it allows the wearer to switch back and forth instantly between two time zones of his choosing, changing the date and the day/night indicator at the same time. First he sets one zone, turning the

crown/push-piece at 8 o'clock until the name of the appropriate city shows in the window at 6 o'clock. Then he sets the time and date in that time zone using the crown at 3 o'clock. He then turns the 8 o'clock crown/push-piece until the city representing the second time zone shows in the window. The watch then automatically resets itself to show the time and date, if different, in that zone. From then on, he need simply push the 8 o'clock crown/push-piece to jump back and forth between the two zones. The watch contains Caliber 5717, which consists of Caliber 777, with its silicon escape wheel and lever, fitted with an additional module. Another unusual feature is the date display. As the date, flanked by the prior and

subsequent days' dates, moves from left to right in the date window, a retrograde hand fitted with a circle at the tip isolates the correct date so it can be read without mistake. The circle jumps back to the left side of the window at midnight, as a new date appears. The watch comes with a rose-gold or platinum case, and is 44 mm in diameter and 13.55 mm thick. The dial is made of gold and decorated by hand with guilloché patterns. The map consists of several layers of lacquer. The sky on the day/night indicator is made of lapis lazuli with pyrite inclusions meant to represent stars. The sun and moon symbols on this display are made of gold (the moon is plated with rhodium to give it a silvery color).



A tiny pair of dice are visible through the sapphire window at 4 o'clock.

Christophe Claret

THE LATEST *HAUTE horlogerie* creation from Christophe Claret is a miniature casino for the wrist. The **21 Blackjack**, described by Claret as an “interactive” timepiece, not only tells the time but features three classic casino games that the wearer can play. The miniature set of dice, located in a cage at 4 o'clock on the side of the case and visible through a sapphire window, can be used by one or more players to create dice combinations for games like craps. On the back of the watch, also visible through a pane of sapphire, is a roulette wheel — actually the winding rotor of the movement — with an inlaid arrow that stops at one of 37 numbers (0-36) around the wheel when the wearer shakes the watch. Owners can also have the watch customized so their lucky number is placed opposite the emerald set into the caseback.

The main event is the front of the watch, with its interactive Blackjack card game. On the upper part of the dial are three windows representing the dealer's cards: one card visible, two hidden by shutters. On the lower part, between 3 o'clock and 9 o'clock, are four windows representing the player's cards (two visible, two hidden). The pusher at 9 o'clock resets the game by arming a spring that triggers the seven solid-gold discs on which the tiny cards are printed. The player “hits” by pressing the push-piece at 8 o'clock (labeled “Player”), causing the disks, which are mounted on ceramic ball bearings, to spin for a few seconds until they are stopped randomly by a jumper spring. A shutter opens, revealing another card. The player may then hit again or stand, as per the object of the game, which is not to exceed “21.” You can then repeat the operation for the dealer's turn by pressing the “Dealer” push-piece at 10 o'clock. Every time a shutter opens, revealing a new card, a casino-like chime rings, activated by a striking mechanism whose hammer and bell are visible through a side window at 2 o'clock. The player has more than 4,000 card combinations, the dealer more than 200.

The watch contains Claret's in-house Caliber BL108, an automatic movement comprised of 501 parts, with two barrels holding a power reserve of 72 hours; it is also a COSC-certified chronometer. It is available with a black onyx or titanium-and-gray-sapphire dial and in several case variations: white gold/black PVD titanium; rose gold/black PVD titanium; platinum/black PVD titanium; black PVD titanium; and gray titanium. Each version will be limited to 21 pieces, with prices starting at around SF180,000 (U.S. prices upon request).

Seiko

FIVE YEARS AGO, Seiko introduced, in its high-end Credor brand, a chiming watch called the Spring Drive Sonnerie. It made headlines not just because of its unusual technology — which combined a high-tech, quartz-regulated movement with a mechanical bell meant to mimic a traditional Japanese chime — but also for its price tag: \$150,000, an eye-popping sum for a Seiko. Now the company has followed up with another chiming Credor: the **Spring Drive Minute Repeater**, containing Caliber 7R11. It is Seiko's first minute repeater. While the price in U.S. dollars has not yet been announced, the yen price is 34,650,000, which translated into U.S. currency is more than \$400,000.

Like the Sonnerie, the Minute Repeater contains a Spring Drive movement, in which a manually wound mainspring powers a device called a Tri-Synchro Regula-

tor, consisting of a glide wheel, coil block, integrated circuit and quartz crystal. The movement is as precise as a standard quartz movement but, unlike other quartz calibers, has a seconds hand that moves continuously (or appears to: it is really making eight little jumps a second, as in many mechanical watches).

The Spring Drive movement has another feature that makes it a good choice for a chiming watch: it doesn't tick, so that the chimes can be heard to their fullest. The chimes are made of steel supplied by a centuries-old Japanese steel manufacturer named Munemichi Myochin. Among Myochin's products are wind chimes, and Seiko modeled the tones produced by its repeater gongs on the tones made by these chimes. The repeater's sound is enhanced also by what Seiko calls a "silent governor" (its blades are visible through the front of the watch), which uses the viscosity of air to control the speed with which the hammers (visible through the caseback) strike the gongs.

The watch does not ring out the traditional time intervals of hours, quarter-hours and remaining minutes, but instead uses a decimal system, ringing the hours, 10-minute intervals and minutes. Seiko chose the decimal system because the company believes it is more in keeping with the high-tech nature of the movement.

The watch has 660 components. A power-reserve indicator sits at the 11 o'clock position. The case is made of rose gold and is 42.8 mm in diameter and 7.8 mm thick. Seiko will make three Spring Drive Minute Repeaters this year.





| Citizen

THIS NEW WATCH from Citizen, the **Eco-Drive Satellite Wave**, takes radio-controlled timekeeping to the next level, literally. Instead of receiving time signals from earthbound radio transmitters, it gets them from orbiting navigation satellites about 12,500 miles above the Earth. Those signals, like the ones that regulate traditional radio-controlled timepieces, are controlled by atomic clocks. There are 24 navigation satellites in orbit, and each circles the Earth once in 12 hours. That means that on any place on Earth there is always a satellite close enough so that the watch can pick up its signal. This eliminates the problem posed by some traditional radio-controlled timepieces: that they are not always within receiving range of a radio time signal. The watch shows the time in 26 time zones represented by abbreviated place names arranged around the dial. It also has a perpetual calendar, which, like the time, is regulated by satellite time signals. The watch is powered by Citizen's Eco-Drive system, which converts light into electricity and does not require battery changes. It will be manufactured in a limited series of 500 pieces. Price: about \$3,500.

Bulgari

GÉRALD GENTA, which was a brand in its own right until last year, when it became a sub-brand under the Bulgari umbrella, continues to specialize in unconventional displays. The new **Octo Quadri-Retro Chronograph** combines a jumping hour with retrograde displays for the minutes, date, elapsed minutes and elapsed hours. The hour window and the four arc-shaped displays fit in a 45-mm octagonal case made of stainless steel with a ceramic bezel and a ceramic-topped crown. Although this model was meant to be more complicated than sporty, it can withstand water pressure up to 100 meters. The timepiece is powered by the brand's own automatic movement, which boasts a column wheel and has a balance that completes 21,600 semi-oscillations per hour. The price is \$25,700.



Jacob & Co.



THE COMPANY founded by jeweler-to-the-stars Jacob Arabo first got the watch world's attention in 2007 with the release of the Quantin, a tourbillon watch with a then-unprecedented 31-day power reserve, for which it enlisted the expertise of the now-defunct complication-specialist firm BNB Concept. Now Jacob & Co. has collaborated with La Fabrique du Temps, a new company headed by two of BNB's founders, Michael Navas and Enrico Barbasoni, to produce another highly unconventional timepiece, called the **Cyclone Tourbillon**. The watch's central point of interest is its "satellite" tourbillon cage, which is mounted on the bidirectional rotor and thus closely integrated with the movement's automatic winding system. The movement, which Jacob & Co. has dubbed LFT 108, places

the rotor on the dial side so that it and its floating tourbillon cage can be more easily seen and appreciated by the wearer. Caliber LFT 108 measures 34.6 mm in diameter and 11.91 mm in thickness and holds a power reserve of 45 hours. The hour and minute display, small seconds subdial, and power reserve indicator are all incorporated into the movement's upper plate, which replaces a conventional dial. The movement features Jacob & Co.'s own decorative motif as well as brushed rhodium and black finishes. The whole ensemble fits inside a huge, unusually shaped case measuring 48 x 67 mm and composed of both white-gold and rose-gold elements. The watch comes on a black calfskin leather strap with an ardillon buckle. A limited edition of 36 pieces, it sells for \$360,000.



Breitling

THE SPORTS-WATCH specialist continues its limited editions with a glass-backed *manufacture* chronograph. The Montbrillant now joins other Breitling models, like the Navitimer, Chronomat and Transocean, that contain *manufacture* Caliber B01. With its red 100th-minute scale, historical Breitling logo and slide-rule bezel, the **Montbrillant 01 Limited** evokes the designs of the 1950s. The case is 40 millimeters in diameter (that is, two millimeters larger than the standard model). The edition consists of 2,000 watches in steel cases for \$8,760 each and 200 in rose-gold cases for \$17,010. Like all of Breitling's watches, the Montbrillant is a COSC-certified chronometer.



Glashütte Original

THE GERMAN LUXURY BRAND follows up its 1960s-inspired Sixties Line with a model influenced by the 1970s. The curvy square case of the **Seventies Panorama Date** echoes the futuristically streamlined style that was popular during that decade. The dial is available in

dark gray with a sunburst pattern, in matte silver, or in blue with a color gradient that grows darker toward the periphery. A pane of sapphire in the back shows off the self-winding *manufacture* Caliber 39-47. The clasp on the integrated metal bracelet has a hidden extension

mechanism: pressing the Glashütte Original logo lets the wearer extend it in eight single-millimeter increments to adjust the bracelet's length to perfectly fit the wrist. This homage to the "Me Decade" has a stainless-steel case and costs \$11,100.

ITAG Heuer

THIS NEW WATCH from TAG Heuer, the **Carrera MP4-12C Chronograph**, was conceived as a companion piece to the new McLaren MP4-12C sports car, designed and built by McLaren Automotive, makers of the famous McLaren F1. The carbon dial is designed to recall the carbon passenger cell of the MP4, and the inner surface of the strap is made from alcantara, the same material used to upholster the car's seats. The case is made of grade-two titanium and is 43 mm in diameter. The crown is made from the same material and bears the McLaren logo. The

movement, ETA Caliber 2892, with a module from Dubois Dépraz, is visible through sapphire crystals inset into the dial and through a sapphire window in the back. The 1,000 watches in this limited edition (U.S. prices not determined at press time) will be available only from dealers who sell McLaren automobiles. The



Blancpain

THE SECOND time zone on the **Villeret Demi-Fuseau** — a true travelers' wristwatch — can be adjusted in half-hour increments so it can correctly show the time in non-standard time zones such as the one used in India. The day-night display at 9 o'clock is oriented according to the time in the wearer's home

zone, which is displayed on the subdial at 12 o'clock. The date, however, stays synchronized with the second time zone in the center. The resetting system is also cleverly conceived: the button in the crown changes the crown's function back and forth from adjusting the second time zone in half-hour steps to

quick-reset for the date display; an indicator at 4 o'clock shows which mode the crown is in. Automatic *manufacture* Caliber 5254DF, which powers the watch, is hidden behind a hinged back cover and has 72 hours of power reserve. The Demi-Fuseau has a 40-mm-diameter rose-gold case and costs \$28,400.

Mühle Glashütte

MÜHLE'S ROBUST, water-resistant **Marinus** outdoor watch now comes with a second time zone. The 24-hour display is powered by ETA's automatic Caliber 2893-2, which (like all the movements that Mühle uses) is equipped with Mühle's own base plate, self-winding assembly and fine-adjustment mechanism. The second time zone can be reset even more quickly than the ordinary hands by readjusting the orientation of the 24-hour bezel with respect

to the additional hand. The 42-mm case is water-resistant to 300 meters; it has sapphire crystals in the front and back and a well-protected threaded crown. Both the rubber-strap and steel-bracelet models come with an extension mechanism for divers. However, Mühle does not describe the **Marinus** as a divers' watch, because it lacks both a luminous seconds hand and a dive-time scale. Prices are expected to range from \$2,899 to \$3,099.



Ulysse Nardin

WITH ITS 2001 introduction of the **Freak** — a revolutionary watch without conventional hands, dial or crown — Ulysse Nardin earned its reputation for innovative watchmaking. The movement of the **Freak** serves as a hand: one part indicates the hours, another part tracks the minutes. The time is set via the bezel; a second bezel on the back winds the movement. In the new **Freak Diavolo**, Ulysse Nardin adds a flying tourbillon, which displays the seconds. The pallets, escape wheel and

even the hairspring are made of extraordinarily lightweight silicon; advanced methods such as photolithography are used in the manufacturing process. The watch has an eight-day power reserve and sells for \$146,000.



Hamilton

THE NEW **Pan Europ** is a revival of an important automatic chronograph from Hamilton's past. When its historical predecessor debuted in 1971, it was the first Hamilton chronograph to contain Caliber 11, one of the world's first self-winding chronograph movements, which was launched in 1969. Hamilton, which did business in those days under the name Hamilton Büren, had developed the movement in cooperation with Dubois Dépraz, Heuer-Leonidas and Breitling. The new model — with its oval case, blue dial, pale elapsed-time counters and tachymeter scale — is very similar to the original. The movement inside it, Caliber H31, is a version of the ETA Valjoux 7750 made exclusively by ETA for Hamilton. The series is limited to 1,971 watches, each of which sells for \$1,825.



Chanel

CHANEL'S J12 debuted in 2000, and its round, smooth ceramic case in the austere "non-colors" of black and white has helped earned it a following as a cult watch. A bit of color was added with last year's J12 Marine, with its blue bezel. Now Chanel uses new colors and materials on the **J12 Chromatic**. The case and bracelet are made from a new type of ceramic that's fortified with titanium. This extremely scratch-resistant compound has a hardness of 1,500 Vickers, which makes it even harder than the 1,300-Vickers high-tech ceramic that Chanel had formerly used. The titanium-ceramic blend is temperature-stable, which means that it becomes neither uncomfortably hot in direct sunlight nor as frigid as a stainless-steel watch when the temperature falls be-

low freezing. Furthermore, the new material weighs about 20 percent less than ordinary high-tech ceramic. Because it's not possible to manufacture all of the case's parts from ceramic, Chanel uses stainless steel wherever friction is generated, as for the inner portion of the unidirectionally rotating bezel, the back, the crown and the patented sprung clasp. Chanel makes the ceramic parts for the other J12 models at its own manufacturing site, which it established in La Chaux-de-Fonds in 1987, but it orders the titanium-ceramic components from a company in Japan that specializes in their manufacture; it then assembles the imported parts in La Chaux-de-Fonds. Chanel plans to begin making the new material in-house in the near future. The look of the J12 Chromatic is also distinct from

Omega

THE NEW HOUR Vision Blue from Omega, like other Hour Vision models, has a case made of stainless steel and sapphire that offers lateral views of the movement. This one also has a blue dial with a sunburst pattern. The watch contains Omega's self-winding *manufacture* Caliber 8500 with the improved Co-Axial escapement on three levels. The movement has earned a chronometer certificate. The hands are made of white gold. The watch has a 41-mm case and sells for \$6,700.



the rest: neither black nor white, it can be best described as grayish anthracite. Diamond powder is used to polish the surfaces to a mirror-like shine so they reflect their surroundings and give the watch differently colored nuances depending on the lighting conditions. The J12 Chromatic is available as both a men's and women's watch in three different sizes: 33, 38 and 41 millimeters in diameter. The two smaller versions are also available with round or baguette-cut diamonds; they are water-resistant to 50 meters. Models without diamonds are water-resistant to 200 meters. The 33-mm models contain quartz movements; the larger ones contain the automatic ETA Caliber 2892. Prices for the non-diamond models range from \$5,900 to \$6,600.



Concord

THE C1 BIG DATE RADAR has a very military appearance thanks to its 44-mm, stainless-steel case coated with black PVD; its bezel, with eight rubber-covered riders; and its sturdy technofiber strap. The 3.3-mm-thick sapphire crystal helps make the case water-resistant to 200 meters. The dial's three-dimensional impression comes from its indices, which are affixed to the crystal: the minute hand rotates beneath them. Also unconventional are the seconds subdial (a disk) and the outsize date (printed with luminous material). A peek through the sapphire exhibition caseback reveals an ETA 2892 that's been augmented with a La Joux-Perret module to support the altered displays. The watch has a COSC chronometer certificate. Its price is \$8,900.

Zenith

THE CAPTAIN COLLECTION EXPANDS with three new models: Power Reserve, Dual Time and Grand Date Moonphase. The first Captain watch appeared in 1952 and its modern successors still display the style that was popular in the early 1950s, albeit with case sizes enlarged to 40 millimeters to appeal to contemporary tastes. To indicate the time in a second zone, the Dual Time model has a blue hand in the center that sweeps along a 24-hour scale. The Power Reserve has an indicator at 2 o'clock. The watches' self-winding *manufacture* movements are visible through panes of sapphire in the casebacks. The Captain Power Reserve costs \$4,900 in steel and \$11,900 in rose gold; the Captain Dual Time costs \$4,600 in steel and \$11,400 in rose gold.



ICuervo y Sobrinos



THE SWISS WATCH brand with Cuban heritage presents an elegant wristwatch with stopwatch capability. The

stainless-steel version of the **Historiador Cronografo** (\$6,500) contains an ETA automatic movement with a module from Dubois Dépraz.

The chronograph can record up to 30 minutes of elapsed time. The rose-gold version with enameled dial (\$19,900)

contains the historical hand-wound Caliber Venus 188, which makes it necessary for the elapsed-minutes counter and the running-seconds subdial to trade places.

IF.P. Journe

WITH THE **OCTA UTC**, F.P. Journe has added a watch to its portfolio that “knows” all 24 of the world’s full-hour time zones. While the blue hands show the local time, the rose-gold 24-hour hand is coupled with the world map on the dial, which is subdivided into 24 segments. When the wearer switches the global disk one hour forward or backward, the hour-hand jumps with it. Journe’s own self-winding caliber supports a power-reserve indicator and a large date display. The watch is available with either a platinum or rose-gold case; prices were unavailable at press time.



Carl F. Bucherer

THE PATRAVI EVOTEC CALENDAR is the first round wristwatch in Bucherer’s *manufacture* line. The large date and day indicators are features it shares with previous models; its new detail is the calendar-week scale that runs around the dial, which includes a 53rd week, shown (in years when it occurs) in the scale’s gap at the “12.” Thanks to this feature, the wearer doesn’t need to advance the indicator through 52 increments after a “long” year in order to reset it. Instead, the display needs to be advanced only one increment — from the gap to the digit “1” on the scale — at the end of each “ordinary” year. The seconds subdial at 6 o’clock would have covered part of the calendar-week track, so the new calendar module uses a disk to indicate the seconds. When equipped with this module, the *manufacture* caliber bears the designation “CFB A1004.” Other carryovers from the past are the oscillating weight (which runs along the perimeter of the movement), the shock absorption system (which is registered for patent protection), and the brand’s own fine adjustment mechanism (which

needs to be regulated only once, when the watch is assembled). The stainless-steel version of the Patravi EvoTec Calendar is available with either a black or silver-colored dial for \$13,900; the rose-gold model costs \$35,500.





Alpina

FRÉDÉRIQUE CONSTANT'S sporty sister brand is launching a new line of watches this year. The styling of the **Startimer Pilot** line recalls the look of traditional pilots' watches. They are inspired by the watches that Alpina made for military clients in the 1920s and 1930s. Along with a *manufacture* regulator and two three-handed watches, there will also be a chronograph based on an ETA caliber. Like the other watches in its family, this model (pictured) comes in a 44-mm stainless-steel case. It costs \$2,595.



Jaquet Droz

THOUGH PREDOMINANTLY known for its elegant watches, Jaquet Droz shows its sporty side with models like the **Grande Seconde SW Steel-Ceramic**. The watch's 45-mm stainless-steel case has a scratch-resistant, black ceramic bezel and is attached to a rubber strap. The hands have a modern, high-tech design and include luminous tips. The two barrels and the gold rotor in the brand's in-house, automatic movement are visible through a pane of sapphire in the back of the case. The watch retails for \$14,700.

Bell & Ross

THE RECENTLY launched Vintage series has now been expanded to include two cleanly designed instrument-style watches. Like all timepieces from Bell & Ross, the dials of the new **Vintage Original Carbon** are inspired by the instruments in the cockpits of historical aircraft. The carbon-coated, stainless-steel cases are 41 millimeters in diameter and are water-resistant to 100 meters, thus providing safe havens for the ETA automatic movements inside. The three-handed watch costs \$3,000; the chronograph is \$4,300.

