

# SHOW AND TELL

*The Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie 2016 is a showcase of creativity, expertise, craftsmanship and desire to do the impossible*

BY CHUANG PECK MING

## 1. Piaget Emperador Coussin XL 700P

This much-talked-about hybrid quartz-mechanical timepiece, which marks the 40th anniversary of Piaget's first quartz movement, may just pave the way for the revival of quartz mechanisms in fine watch-making.

More luxury brands are starting to use them again to make entry-level products more affordable. Yet the 700P requires no battery to operate. A Swiss-made electronic generator is instead fitted to regulate a self-winding mechanical movement.

Vibrating at a faster than normal frequency in mechanical movements, the 700P keeps time more accurately. The watch is inevitably compared with Seiko's Spring Drive, another hybrid quartz mechanical movement, introduced in 1999. There are similarities but some of the executions are different.

The 700P comes in a 46.5 mm white gold case and is limited to 118 pieces at a tentative US\$70,800 each.

## 2. Greubel Forsey Tourbillon 24 Secondes Vision

The overall winner of the 2015 Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève, the watch industry's equivalent of the Oscars, has been given a new shine. The white gold case has given way to a red gold. The original white solid gold dial is given a fresh anthracite colour.

But what makes Tourbillon 24 Secondes Vision a great watch remain: the sober and simple look; the slender 43 mm case; the innovative sapphire dome carved out of the display back that houses the tourbillon; the hand-finished hands; the rare expertise seen in the lower tourbillon bridge's barrelled and polished surface; and the hand-wound movement's extreme-precision mechanics. Price: 240,000 Swiss francs (\$336,000).

## 3. Richard Mille RM 67-01 Automatic Extra Flat

Richard Mille has already produced two thin timepieces – the rectangular RM 016b and the more recent round RM 033. RM 67-01 is its first extra-thin watch in a tonneau-shaped case. The 7.75 mm high case houses a new in-house automatic movement just 3.6 mm thick. This features a platinum rotor and a free-sprung balance typically found in higher-end calibres.

The movement can be viewed on the dial-less front. Prices range from S\$125,900 to S\$180,000, depending on whether the case is made of titanium, red or white gold.

## 4. Audemars Piguet Royal Oak Concept Supersonnerie

Audemars Piguet says that the secret of the exceptionally good sound quality of the minute repeater in this three-combo complication is its pitch – the sound is pitched at the level of a baby's cry which is specially attuned to the human ear.

When Audemars Piguet presented the prototype of this watch a year ago, everyone present heard it loud and clear. The minute repeater of the Royal Oak Concept RD#1 was so impressive that virtually no one noticed the chronograph and tourbillon functions of the timepiece. The watch has gone commercial with the Royal Oak Concept Supersonnerie – and the final product still contains some surprising innovations that defies previous practical limitations such as waterproofing to give a clear, full sound. Price: S\$861,600



## 5. Grand Lange 1 Moon Phase Lumen

This is A Lange & Sohne's first watch with a luminous moon-phase display – and its third with an open dial. Previous Lange moon-phase models feature solid-gold lunar discs, this one has a disc made of glass. The disc is coated first before 1,164 stars and moon are laser cut into it.

A luminous compound behind the glass gives the stars and moon a glow when it is dark. Properly set, the moon phase needs to be corrected by one day every 122.6 years.



1



5

## 6. IWC Big Pilot's Heritage 55 and 48 Limited Editions

The pair pay homage to the biggest watch IWC ever made – the Big Pilot, which boasts a 55 mm case and was created for German pilots in 1940. While Heritage 55 matches the size of the original, it is thinner and lighter. The 1940 model has a steel case; the new version is made of titanium. Also, instead of the earlier centre second, the remake has a sub-seconds at six o'clock.

Still, the new Big Pilot is very much a chip of the old block. The '9' numeral on the dial of the original pilot watch, removed from pilot models since 2002, made a comeback in Heritage 55. The distinctive triangle marker at 12 o'clock is lowered to more closely resemble the original.

While Heritage 48 is a downsized version of Heritage 55, it is powered by a movement with eight days' power reserve – against Heritage 55's two days.

Heritage 55 is limited to 100 pieces with a US\$14,800 price tag each. Heritage 48 is limited to 1,000 pieces and priced at US\$13,400 apiece.

## 7. Van Cleef & Arpels Rubis Secret Bracelet Watch

A one-of-a-kind creation set with 115 high-quality Mozambique rubies weighing a total 151.25 carats, this bracelet timepiece is a work of unparalleled precision and intricacy as well as constant technical inventiveness. It took over a year to finish. The watch, fitted with a quartz movement, is hidden in a white gold plate on the inside of the bracelet. Price: NA



## 8. Baume & Mercier Clifton Chronograph Complete Calendar

When the Clifton line was launched in 2013, it was a shot in the arm for Baume & Mercier's flagging collection. The brand has continued its successful strategy of adding a new complication to the Clifton range every year with this complete calendar model in 2016.

Combined with a chronograph and second time zone functions, the 43 mm steel-cased automatic watch has day, date, month and moon-phase indications, all of which have to be adjusted for the varying lengths of months – unlike annual and perpetual calendar complications. Price: US\$4,900 (\$6,958)

## 9. Montblanc 1858 Chronograph Tachymeter Blue Limited Edition 100

Chronographs made by the Minerva watch-making house in the 1930s were models of accuracy in timekeeping. They are the inspiration for the 1858 Chronograph Tachymeter.

Even in the design and look, the early models exerted an influence: the historical shape of the hands of the remake, its small seconds at 9 o'clock and the chronograph counter at 3 o'clock. These are set against a striking blue dial held in a 44 mm case.

The 1858's hand-wound movement was developed in-house by Montblanc which now owns Minerva. While its structure and components are the same as the original calibre, the new movement outshines its precursor in its handcrafted finishings.

The 1858 Chronograph is limited to 100 pieces in steel (9,500 euros or \$14,725) and 100 pieces in red gold (18,900 euros).

## 10. Jaeger-LeCoultre Master Grande Tradition Tourbillon Cylindrique

Beating at the heart of the platinum case of this complication timepiece is a tourbillon fitted with a cylindrical balance spring, a sophisticated device which reduces considerably the negative effects of gravity on the movement – and guarantees reliability. The watch is powered by an automatic movement with 45 hours' power reserve. Price: S\$154,000.

## 11. Cartier Panthers Et Colibri

Housed in a 42.75 mm white gold case set with diamonds is the most complicated movement – a hand-wound mechanism – that Cartier has ever created for women. The timepiece is also the first lady's complication timepiece that features the famous jewellery and watch house's everpresent panther icon. When you press the winding crown, a baby panther escapes the mother's paw to chase after a gold-winged humming bird. The watch's power reserve (three days maximum) is traced by the length of the bird's flight. Price: NA



6



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14



15



16



17



18



19



20



21



22



23



24



25



26



27