

BEAT DRUMS

Horology's 'Oscars' honour this year's stand-out timepieces. Meet some high-profile nominees...

When it comes to the watch industry, there is only one awards ceremony that truly matters – the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève. Its distinguished group of judges comprise a mix of high-profile collectors, retailers, watchmakers and watch writers deciding who has done the most to advance watchmaking over the past year. It's the horological equivalent of the Oscars, with big brands and indie watchmakers alike competing to win one of the 16 prizes on offer. The pre-selected group of 72 watches forms part of a travelling exhibition that is displayed in cities such as New Delhi, Beijing and Geneva – where the winners will be announced at a prize-giving ceremony on 31 October – before finally touching down at London's Salon QP in November.

Happily, general watch-lovers can also get involved as the public prize is, as the name suggests, voted for by the public. After registering, voters are in with the chance of winning a fabulous Girard-Perregaux watch. You can find out more at gphg.org. Before then though, feast your eyes on some of the nominated watches pre-selected by the judges – all representing brilliant examples of the art of timekeeping.



LADIES

MEN'S



de Grisogono ALLEGRA STEEL

Company founder Fawaz Gruosi's horological ode to his daughter Allegra combines a 1930's strap style with a striking double square face, encircled with precious stones – diamonds, emeralds, pink and red spinels, yellow tsavorite, orange, yellow and pink sapphires, and amethysts.

Frédéric Jovenot SURYA

Master watchmaker Frédéric Jovenot founded his eponymous brand in 2008, with his Solar Deity collection receiving an award at the 2011 Geneva Time Exhibition. This year saw the release of the Surya, which features a flower dial with 12 jumping petals indicating each hour. A clever and beautiful piece.



MB&F LEGACY MACHINE 101

At around £37,000, this is the most affordable of MB&F's 'horological machines' and represents the most wearable (and smallest) timepiece from the stable of Max Büsser and his friends. Conceived in-house and hand-finished to a high level by watch guru Kari Voutilainen, this 30-piece collection proved very popular when it was launched earlier this year.



Chopard L.U.C 1963 CHRONOGRAPH

The L.U.C 1963 Chronograph pays tribute to the Scheufele family's 50 years at the helm of Chopard. Equipped with a fully integrated column-wheel chronograph, a flyback function and patented features, this exceptional timepiece bears the prestigious Poinçon de Genève quality hallmark.





Blancpain
12-DAY ONE-MINUTE FLYING TOURBILLON

This 60-second flying tourbillon allows an unobstructed view of the beautiful decorated movement and, thanks to a 50% power increase, it now offers a whopping 12-day power reserve. The model is part of the brand's esteemed, classic Villeret collection.



Van Cleef & Arpels
MIDNIGHT PLANETARIUM

Inspired by planetariums, the watch's movement was created for Van Cleef & Arpels by Dutch watchmaker Christiaan van der Klaauw. Quite simply, it tells the time by placing a miniature rotating solar system on your wrist, with the diamond-decorated version coming in at £247,000.

CALENDAR



Hublot
TOURBILLON CATHEDRAL MINUTE REPEATER

Baselworld 2014 saw Hublot present its second Minute Repeater, coupled with a tourbillon and integrated into the design of the Classic Fusion 45mm. Its double cathedral chime and exceptional tone quality saw it win a plethora of plaudits from watch connoisseurs.



- HAUTE HOROLOGY -

MECHANICAL EXCEPTION

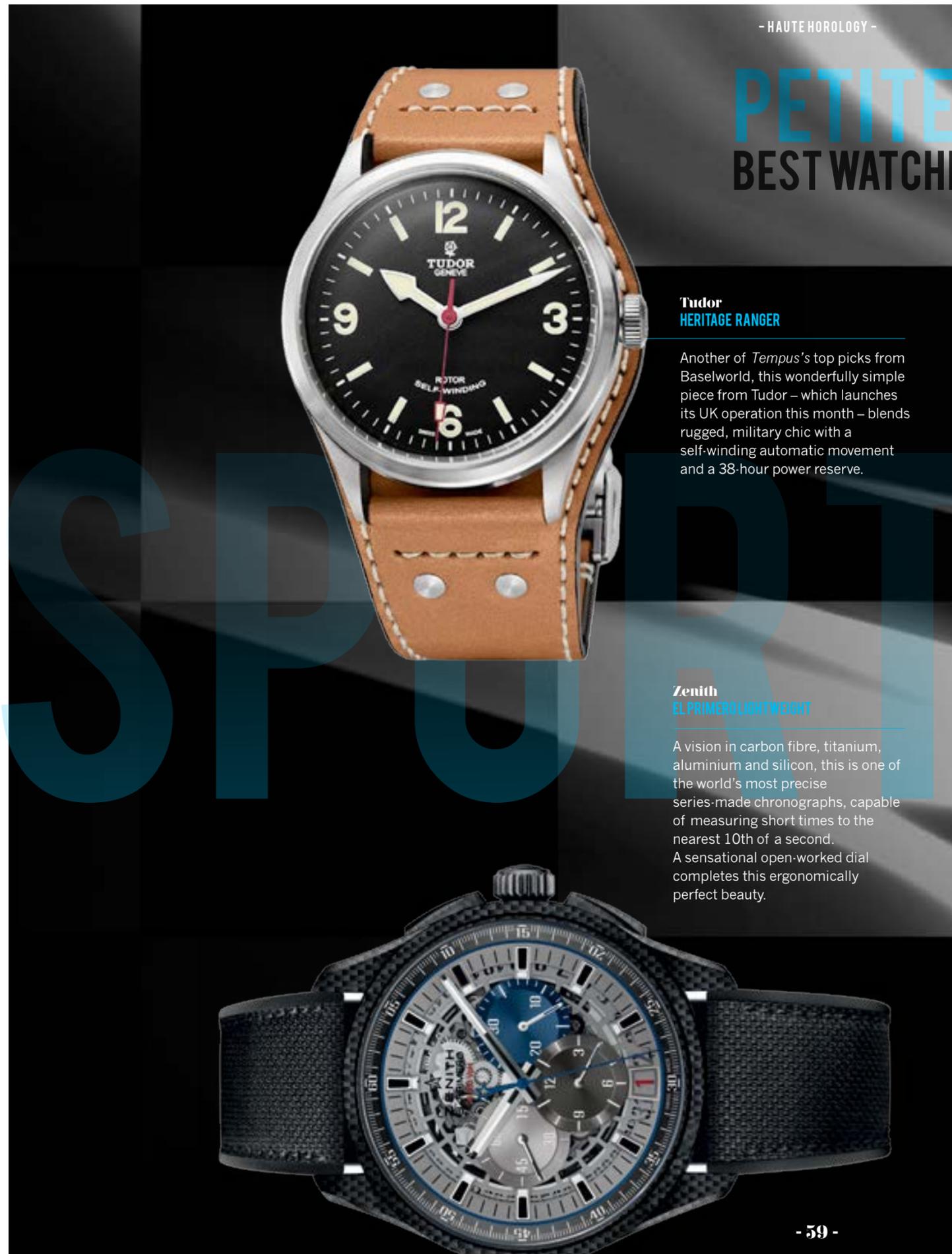
Andreas Strehler
SAUTERELLE À LUNE PERPÉTUELLE

This impressive mechanical timepiece includes an incredibly precise perpetual display of the moon, requiring an adjustment by ten minutes every 14,000 years, or by one day every two million years. A wonderful combination of tradition and modernity.



TAG Heuer
MONACO V4 TOURBILLON

One of the brand's most extraordinary creations, this piece includes the world's first belt-driven tourbillon and takes its design cues from the cylinders of a Formula 1 engine – a fitting tribute to Tag Heuer's rich automotive history.



- HAUTE HOROLOGY -

PETITE AIGULLE

BEST WATCHES UNDER £5,000

Tudor
HERITAGE RANGER

Another of *Tempus's* top picks from Baselworld, this wonderfully simple piece from Tudor – which launches its UK operation this month – blends rugged, military chic with a self-winding automatic movement and a 38-hour power reserve.

Zenith
EL PRIMERO LIGHTWEIGHT

A vision in carbon fibre, titanium, aluminium and silicon, this is one of the world's most precise series-made chronographs, capable of measuring short times to the nearest 10th of a second. A sensational open-worked dial completes this ergonomically perfect beauty.



Seiko
GRAND SEIKO HI-BEAT 36000 GMT

Elegant, simple and subtle, and with a new caliber, the 9S86, building on the platform of the impressive hi-beat caliber 9S85, this was one of *Tempus's* favourite watches when we saw it debut at Baselworld earlier this year. This is also Grand Seiko's first GMT with a 10-beat caliber, making for supreme accuracy.

Graff
MULTI-COLOURED BUTTERFLY WATCH

This Multi-Coloured Butterfly watch is inspired by the delicate symmetry of the butterfly, and features a dial that is made of 333 diamonds, plus 30 multi-coloured sapphires, with each butterfly appearing to hover above the gemstones. Bespoke colour variations are available.



Hermès
ARCEAU TEMARI

This piece is nothing less than a masterwork of artisanal craftsmanship, from the painstaking setting of more than 700 stones – which takes around three weeks – to the Japanese-inspired dial pattern composed either of white mother-of-pearl, onyx, lapis lazuli or opal. The mechanical self-winding movement offers a 50-hour power reserve.

Voutilainen
HISUI

This unique piece combines the skills of master watchmaker Karl Voutilainen with Unryuan, one of Japan's greatest lacquer studios. The latter takes around 1,000 hours to complete the dial and bridges, using materials such as gold dust, gold leaf and abalone shell from New Zealand. Only one of these pieces will be made, ensuring its place in horological history.



Jaquet Droz
PETITE HEURE MINUTE RELIEF SAISONS

The magnificence of birds, and especially the blue songbirds of his native Swiss Jura, has always captivated Pierre Jaquet-Droz. Here, the dial is fashioned in hand-engraved mother-of-pearl, the birds are sculpted and engraved in gold before being applied to the dial and finally, the birds and the dial are painted – a miniature trompe-l'œil which comes to life in the hands of the brand's craftsmen.

