

GO ^{BRITISH} Watch ²⁰¹⁶ AND JEWELLERY

THE GO WATCH GUIDE 2016

TRIBAL INSTINCT
Which kind of watch lover are you?

TO BOLDLY GO...
Watches that synchronised the space race

TIME FOR ADVENTURE
Meet horology's go-anywhere classics



Maurice Lacroix

Maurice Lacroix has decided to play on the success of its sporty Pontos S chronographs with a trio of new versions: a Regatta model with a ten-minute countdown; a Diver model in black PVD, which is waterproof down to a lung-crushing 2,000 feet; and the Extreme, with an ultra-light Powerlite case of magnesium, titanium, zirconium and ceramic.

Watch of the collection
Of the three newbies, it's the 43mm Diver (left) that takes our fancy. Available in stainless steel or a black PVD finish, it features a helium escape valve and urgent orange highlights, and is supplied on a black, rubber and calfskin strap. The steel version is also available on a metal bracelet. £2,350 (PVD); £2,200 (steel). maurielacroix.com



Mondaine

The brand best known for watch versions of its famous SBB Swiss Railways clocks has jumped aboard the smartwatch bandwagon with a new version of its Helvetica No1 Bold, using the horological smartwatch technology of the moment, MotionX. This connects with a mobile phone or tablet to monitor sleep patterns, provide alerts and so on. The data is shown on a dedicated subdial.

Watch of the collection
Equally smart, in the sense of looking good, is the new Helvetica No1 Regular hand-winder (above), a 40mm, hand-wound version of the Helvetica launched in 2014. The mechanism can be admired through a display case back. From £750. mondaine.ch

Montblanc

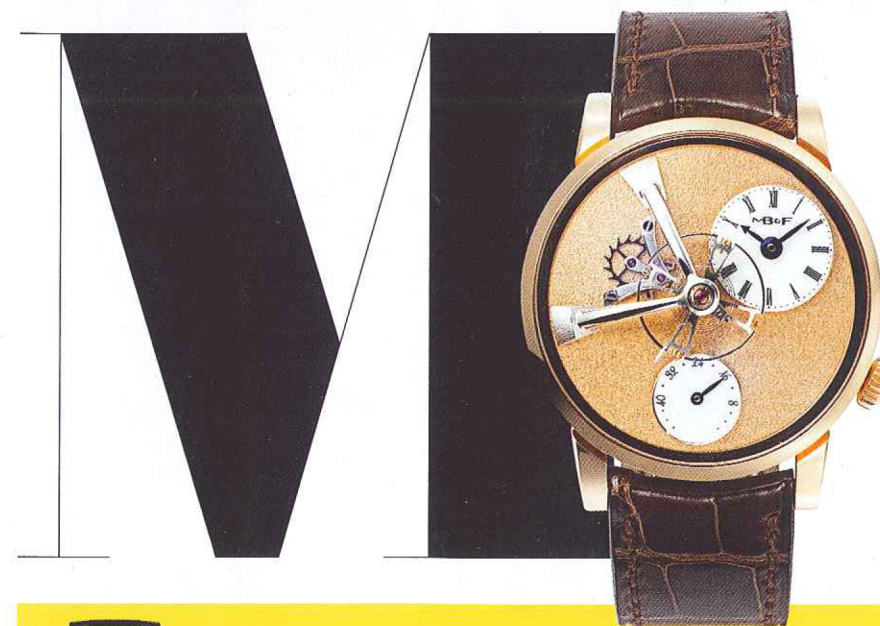
Montblanc, managed by dynamic former Jaeger-LeCoultre boss Jérôme Lambert, introduced one of the smartest counters to the electronic smartwatch we've seen - marrying a mechanical watch head with an "e-strap" featuring a clasp that serves as a connected device capable of streaming text messages and e-mails from a mobile phone.

Watch of the collection
The Heritage Spirit Orbis Terrarum world timer (above) not only shows 24 time zones simultaneously, it also shows you where day is turning to night (and vice versa) in every part of the northern hemisphere on a map that becomes darker or lighter according to the time. £3,895 (steel); £10,900 (red gold). montblanc.com

MB&F

Has there ever been a horological year in which there were quite so many anniversaries? Doubtful - but one of the more important ones concerns Max Büsser's MB&F brand, which is now ten years old. The occasion has been marked with the creation of - a robot clock. Named Melchior, the imaginative timepiece has been made in conjunction with clock specialist L'Epée and will be restricted to 99 examples costing around £25,000 each.

Watch of the collection
Undoubtedly it's the new Legacy Machine, the 101 Frost (below), Büsser's latest interpretation of classical watchmaking. The Frost bit refers to the distinctive surface finishing that was once typically seen on English pocket watches of the 18th and 19th centuries - but the suspended balance and two small dials (one for displaying the time, the other showing the power reserve) mark this out as an entirely 21st-century creation. Around £40,000. mbandf.com



Michael Kors

The giant American fashion brand - which is predicted to make close to \$5 billion in sales this year - recently extended its deal with Fossil watches, which will see the

firm produce Michael Kors-branded timepieces well beyond 2020.

Watch of the collection
The Jetmaster (left) has chronograph sub-dials and pushers - but no actual chronograph function. Instead,

the pushers are used for speedy adjustment of the calendar display, and a further sub-dial offers a second time-zone function. Still, for a 45mm steel watch on a steel bracelet, it's good value. £379. michaelkors.com

Movado

Achille Ditesheim was just 19 when he founded his watch company in La Chaux-de-Fonds in 1881, later naming it Movado (Esperanto for "always in motion"). The firm's greatest claim to fame is the Museum watch, designed in 1947 by Nathan George Horwitt with a minimalist black dial marked only with a gold dot at the 12 o'clock position. It became the first wristwatch to be exhibited at New York's Museum of Modern Art.



Watch of the collection
The latest version of the Museum (above) offers an ETA mechanical movement in a 39.5mm case, with a black or blue dial. Around £700. movado.com