

FELIPE MASSA, VICTORIA PENDLETON, SACHIN TENDULKAR — AND MORE!

VANITY FAIR

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ON TIME



THE SPORT ISSUE

WHERE INSPIRATION MEETS PERSPIRATION (AND THE WATCH-LOVING STARS OF MANCHESTER UNITED)

PLUS: LEWIS HAMILTON, SARA CAMPBELL, AND DEREK BELL ON STEVE McQUEEN



BAIZE OF GLORY

Clockwise from top left: Maurice Lacroix Masterpiece Lune Retrograde; Baume & Mercier Classima Executives Hours Minutes Seconds; de Grisogono Fuso Quadrato; Chopard L.U.C. Lunar Big Date; Hermès Cape Cod Tonneau; Ralph Lauren Stirrup White Gold; Alfred Dunhill Facet.

BELL & ROSS • “Death from Above” was the cheerful motto of the 101st US Airborne Division. Bell & Ross has interpreted this jolly maxim into the BR01 Airborne, with a luminous skull and sword-shaped hands complete with little hilts. The *memento mori* theme has been well thought through, with a skull-shaped bezel fixed to the watch case by four bone-like protrusions.

BLANCPAIN • As well as expanding on the success of the Fifty Fathoms, Marc A. Hayek has unveiled the new watch he has been developing for Lamborghini (see page 63). What’s interesting about this timepiece is that while the cars from Sant’Agata are among the most, ahem, extrovert vehicles on the roads, Blancpain’s chronograph in honour of them is almost ostentatiously discreet in its low-volume presence on the wrist.

BREGUET • Breguet’s Marine has been a closet favourite of mine for years; 2009 sees a version called the Marine Royale, water-resistant to 300 metres. It is the first time it has been fitted with a rotating bezel and Breguet Blue luminosity.

BREITLING • Although my favourite Breitling product was the Austin Powers-spec punched-metal bracelet that shackles the anniversary Navitimer to the wrist, the buzz at Breitling is all about the new in-house calibre, the B01, and the homonymous watch (see page 67) in which it is housed. The watch is a very Breitling piece of design, and its powertrain, while developed in-house, is distinct from the whole *manufacture* rigmarole—it’s an improved automatic chronograph designed for industrial production. If you want to know what that means, see page 96.

BREMONT • It is surely one of the most esoteric co-branding deals yet embarked upon by a watch company. Bremont, creation of the brothers English, has teamed up with Martin-Baker: not a car brand, sportsman, actor or charity, but a maker of ejector seats. While eccentric, it is not without its relevance—the brothers are keen aviators, and there is the technical side of things too. Sadly, this is not manifested in a watch equipped with a small explosive charge that catapults the wearer into the air. Instead, the watch is subjected by Martin-Baker to the same testing as an ejector seat, and various modifications have duly been made to the movement. There are two resulting watches: the MB1, available for purchase only by those who have been ejected in a Martin-Baker seat, and the MB2 (see page 63), for those who haven’t—and hope they never need to be.

BULGARI • Following the launch of the Sotirio watch to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Italian jeweller comes an *haute horlogerie* version (see page 64): an attractive tourbillon perpetual calendar which uses the complicated layered and textured surfaces of the dial to express its personality and its information both elegantly and symmetrically.

CARTIER • The Baignoire is back. Although Cartier is very excited about its Seal of Geneva tourbillons, if I had to define the brand’s horological genius, I would say that it resides in its mastery of the shaped case. Sure, Cartier can do round watches, but it is the panoply of polyhedrals and compendium of curves that really make Cartier watches so enduring. Over the years there have been parallelograms and octagons, rounded rectangles and an array of ovals, of which the classic Baignoire and the beautiful Baignoire Allongée (or Oval and Maxi Oval as they

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LAPS OF LUXURY

Clockwise from far left: Backes & Strauss Black Knight; Glashütte Original Sports Evolution Impact Panorama Date; Blancpain Super Trofeo Chronograph; Graff ChronoGraff; Zenith Defy Xtreme Zenithium Open; Bremont MB2.



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