

Luxury: Vietnam's Laguna Lang Co, SalonQP, Tesla Model S



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THIRD TIME'S A CHARM

Jiménez books his place in HK Open history with another Fanling special



CLUBHOUSE

Away from the Fairways

| TEE TIME

TIME TO SHINE

EVAN RAST
REPORTS ON THE
WATCHMAKERS
THAT MADE THEIR
MARK AT THE
RECENT SALONQP
IN LONDON

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

Piaget's
Altiplano
Skeleton
Ultra-Thin

When it comes to timepieces, we're very much used to hearing the latest from Switzerland. The SalonQP however is a unique occasion where we see the best from a growing group of British independent watchmakers, mixed in with our standard Swiss bearers. The artsy Saatchi Gallery in London was once again the chosen location for the fourth edition of the show, which ran from 8 to 10 November.

Founder and QP editor James Gurney compares the salon to a "car show for watches," catering more to passionate enthusiasts than retailers and journalists. So apart from being able to try on and discover new models, the show organisers also made sure there were one-off experiences on offer. It was the first year that the salon hosted a lifestyle section, featuring luxury audio, jewellery and watch winders. Harrods set up a watch servicing and repair area for visitors. Workshops and demonstrations, from dial enamelling from Jaquet Droz, watchmaking from Chopard, Corum and Harry Winston, as well as gem-setting and watch assembly – courtesy of Jaeger-LeCoultre's masterclass – were offered. And industry insiders, including watch journalist Ian Skellern, and *The Jewellery Editor's* Maria Doulton, were invited as guest speakers.

More than 50 brands participated in the event, a number of which chose the occasion to launch new timepieces.

NEW AND NOTED

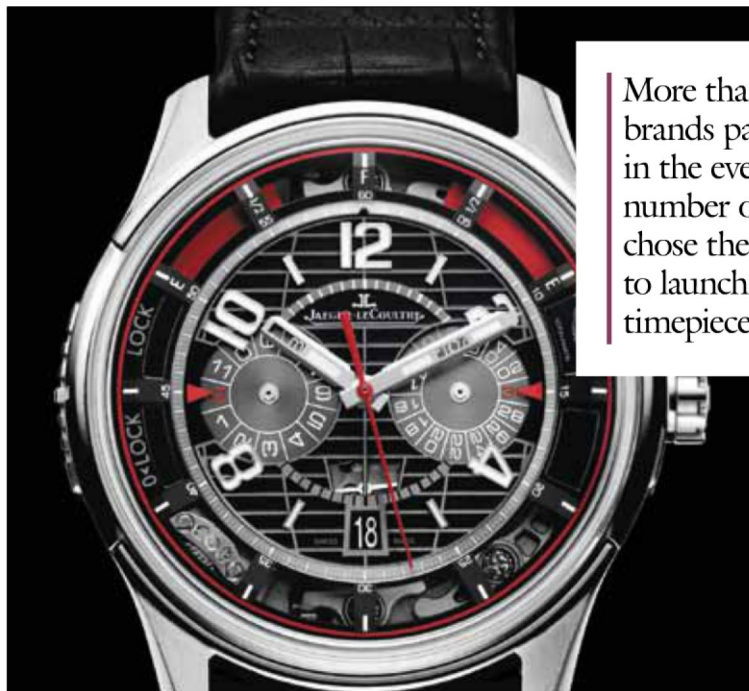
Jaeger-LeCoultre unveiled its latest collaborative timepiece with British carmaker Aston Martin, the AMVOX 7. The watch comes in a fiery red and black combination, with the dial featuring the pattern of the latest Vanquish's radiator grille (Aston Martin's super grand tourer). The vertical-trigger chronograph, powered by the Calibre 756, showcases Jaeger-LeCoultre's first radial power-reserve display that appears through two apertures on the upper part of the bezel. The 44mm case comes in grade 5 titanium.

After the release of its Mikrograph – the chronograph that can measure up to 1/100th of a second – Tag Heuer presented the MikrotourbillonS, a tourbillon with a similar function. Tag Heuer has never produced a tourbillon because the accuracy of the complication has always been questioned. That is until the brand discovered a way to create tourbillons of zero-tolerance, chronograph precision. The watch has two rotating tourbillons visible on the dial. The first beats at a standard 4Hz and rotates once per minute, and the second controls the 1/100th second chronograph, running at a spectacular 50Hz and rotating every five seconds – that's 12 times a minute! The energy required for this feat comes from a dual-chain, dual-barrel automatic movement. The MikrotourbillonS was designed with the Carrera in mind, in black tantalum with rose gold accents.

The salon was also where Vacheron Constantin's latest addition to its Patrimony line, the Patrimony Traditionnelle Automatic, made its first appearance. Released just weeks before, the watch has all the makings of a classic, with the refined lines and craftsmanship the brand is known for. The watch is an obvious display of Vacheron Constantin's expertise in proportions, as everything seems to be just right, from the size of the opaline silver-toned dial, the length of the dauphine hands and applied indexes, and the thickness of the bezel; housed in a slender (7.26mm) gold case.

And over on the opposite end of the design spectrum, futuristic watchmaker Urwerk released the UR-210, a watch with the world's first winding efficiency indicator. Designed like the UR-110, the first of the series with its satellite system of spinning hour indicators and retrograde minutes display, the UR-210 boasts an ingenious function that measures the difference between the energy consumed and generated by the mainspring over a two-

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Clockwise from top: Piaget's Altiplano Skeleton Ultra-Thin; the UR-210 from Urwerk; the Patrimony Traditionelle Automatic, the latest addition to Vacheron Constantin's Patrimony line

hour period. To achieve this, an indicator on the upper left corner of the dial will move from red, if the watch isn't getting enough winding power (say if the watch isn't being used or the wearer isn't moving much), to green if it is. At the back is an adjuster with three options: full, which charges the reserve with any movement, reduced, which engages an air turbine compressor to slow the rotors' movement, and stop, which turns the watch into a manual winder. This ensures a good ratio of energy in and energy out, allowing for less strain on the mechanism and avoiding over-winding.

HISTORY MAKERS

The Salon was also a unique opportunity to take a look at models that were continuing a series of record-breaking innovations.

Piaget has been making headlines with its ultra-thin movements, and this year it presented the world's thinnest automatic skeleton watch, measuring a mere 5.34mm. The Altiplano Skeleton Ultra-Thin is also powered by the world's thinnest skeleton movement, at 2.40mm, the Calibre 1200S. It took more than three years of research to get the timepiece pared down to this level. Highlights include a micro-rotor in 950 platinum, a brand new symmetrical balance-bridge and a slimmed down hour-wheel bridge.

Harry Winston showcased its 12th Opus, which is astonishing to watch in action. The watch, initially launched at Baselworld, was created in collaboration with watchmaker Emmanuel



Bouchet, an expert in minute repeaters. Instead of regular hands, two blued hands shows the hour and the minute, but what's unique about this watch is that at the turn of each hour, an animation of the 12 hands occurs, resembling a wave, with the blued hand moving around the indicators until it stops on the new hour. At the centre of the dial are a retrograde five-minute indicator, subsidiary seconds dial, and power reserve indicator. The watch comes in a 46mm 18k white gold case with the centre in Zaliu.

the direction needed to point a telescope at a particular star in the night sky. The watch is fitted with the in-house A&S1311 handwound calibre, and comes in a 44mm 18k rose or white gold case.

At Bremont, there was a buzz over the presence of a gold pocket watch owned by Admiral Lord Nelson, the hero of the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. This coincided with the launch of the brand's latest limited edition, The Victory, which is inlaid with a piece of history: original oak timber and copper from the only

ENGLISH PRIDE

Offering authentic and interesting alternatives to that of their Swiss contemporaries, the British contingent was in full force, presenting memorable pieces that were true to their heritage.

Arnold & Son presented the handsome DBS, which stands for 'double balance' and 'sidereal time', which is a tribute to the first watches John Arnold and his son created between 1796 and 1799, which showcased some of their most famous inventions: a thermo-compensated Z balance, expansion escapement and gold helical spring. The DBS is a dual time watch with two sub dials, one for the mean solar time (local time) and the other for sidereal time, approximately four minutes shorter than the average day, used by astronomers to track

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remaining 18th century warship and the oldest one still in commission, HMS Victory, the same ship that Lord Nelson helmed, are seen on the caseback. The timepiece is a stunner in front as well, with a vintage feel coming from the dial display of retrograde seconds and date with sweep hands and two counters at 12 and 6 o'clock. The watch comes

in stainless steel (250 pieces) or 18k rose gold (40 pieces). Bremont has worked closely with the National Museum of the Royal Navy to produce this new watch, with parts of the proceeds from its sale going toward important restoration work.

Based in Switzerland but British at heart, Peter Speake-Marin showcased the Spirit Mark 2, a distinctive design with highly legible dial.

Clockwise from top: Tag Heuer's MikrotourbillonS; the DBS from Arnold & Son; Harry Winston's 12th Opus; Bremont's limited edition watch, the Victory; Thomas Mercer's signature chronometer, the Classis; the Spirit Mark 2 from Peter Speake-Marin

White Super-LumiNova treated numerals and hour markers contrast against a matte black background, creating a 3-D effect on the one-piece dial. The watch is equipped with a new automatic movement with 5-day power reserve, and features the beautiful hand finishing that Speake-Marin watches are known for. The watchmakers inspirational message, "Fight, Love & Persevere" is engraved on the caseback.

Although Roger Smith – known for his fully British-made Daniels Anniversary watch, created with the late Dr George Daniels (Omega co-axial escapement inventor) – could not exhibit this year, a special preview screening of *The Watchmaker's Apprentice*, a documentary about the life and work of Dr Daniels and his protégé, was shown at the Salon.

The revival and re-launch of London brand Thomas Mercer also proves that the spirit of the British watch and clock-making industry is alive and well. Established in 1858, Thomas Mercer specialised in marine chronometers, a product line that is now increasingly popular because of the growing number of yacht owners. The brand unveiled the *Classis*, its signature chronometer, designed in partnership with super yacht maker Andrew Winch. The ultra-luxe model comes in fine ebony macassar and features a unique mechanism, with parts produced by internationally known furniture maker Linley.

This renewed interest in British tradition and craftsmanship has certainly been good for the organisers of SalonQP, who seem to have perfected the recipe for a good watch show. An artistic location, big names, product launches, and enjoyable activities for the aficionados ensure that many will be back next year.

