CLASSIC DRIVER

These watches are dialled into the automotive world

Lead

Watches and cars have always gone hand in hand, with a high percentage of car fans having similar affections for timepieces. This year's Baselworld saw a host of new automotive-inspired watches unveiled, and we've rounded up these latest offerings that are sure to delight car and watch fans alike...

Porsche Design Monobloc Actuator



For the Porschefile who has it all — 911, check; laptop, check; shoes, check — there's a new toy to add to your collection: the Porsche Design Monobloc Actuator Chronograph. Inspired by the new 911 RSR, there will be a limited-edition set, designated by '24H', finished in a black and red colour scheme, with a titanium 45.5mm case and titanium carbide coating. Only 251 will be made – the distance between the axles of the Porsche 911 RSR — but with 60% of the production run already pre-ordered by Porsche Motorsports team members, and at a price of 7,450 US dollars, orders are sure to be filling fast. If that's the case, the non-limited-edition set, designated by 'GMT', will be available, with the same functionality as the 24H version but with three variations, featuring a black dial, a blue dial, or titanium bracelet, at a price between 6,350 and 6.580 US dollars.

Zenith Chronomaster El Primero Range Rover Velar Special Edition





Not only was the new Range Rover Velar unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show, but so was its accompanying watch, the Zenith Chronomaster El Primero Range Rover Velar Special Edition, which was co-designed and engineered by Range Rover and Zenith specialists. The Velar Special Edition is the second instalment of the El Primero series and is no-doubt more discreet than its predecessor. It features an aluminium 42mm case finished in burnished copper, with a brushed slate grey dial and three chronograph sub-dials. Tying in the Velar, the strap is made of a sustainable rubber coated with dark grey diamond-perforated calfskin, the same as that featured on the car's interior. Land Rover's attention to detail with this piece is clear, resulting in a price tag of 8,700 US dollars.

Chopard Mille Miglia Classic XL 90th Anniversary Limited Edition







Ninety years of motor racing is definitely a feat to be commemorated, and as long-time supports and partners, Chopard has created a new Mille Miglia Classic XL 90th Anniversary Limited Edition to do just that. The latest edition is the perfect collaboration of automotive and horology, with its brown leather strap and dark brown stitching, reminiscent of driving gloves of the past, and piston-inspired chronograph pushers complementing the L.U.C. Calibre 03.07-Lchronograph movement. It's 44mm, 18K rose gold case is timelessly classic, and with just 90 pieces, priced at 43,880 US dollars, it truly is a masterpiece.

Techframe Ferrari 70 Years Tourbillon Chronograph





Ferrari is again partnering with Hublot to create a new original collection in celebration of the marque's 70th anniversary. Designed by Ferarri, with strength, performance, and agility in mind, and crafted by Hublot, this new collection will feature three versions — King Gold, PEEK Carbon, and Titanium — with only 70 limited-edition pieces of each. In collaboration with Ferrari Head of Design Flavio Manzoni, Hublot has created a Turbillon Chronograph for the true tifosi. The new HUB6311 calibre with manual winding is combined with a lattice chassis case to provide maximum strength with minimal weight. Along with the Ferrari moniker on the face and the Prancing Horse symbol on the back and dial, there is a pushbutton for start-stop reset functions and two additional buttons to release the strap for easy and efficient changes — all in iconic P485 Ferrari red. The King Gold and Titanium versions are priced at 158,000 and 127,000 US dollars, respectively, with the PEEK Carbon, a multi-layered polyether ether ketone carbon fibre material, going for 137,000 US dollars.

Tag Heuer Autavia 2017







After last year's <u>Autavia cup vote</u>, which allowed the public to have a say in which version Tag Heuer would be reissued, the Autavia Ref. 2446 Mark 3 'Rindt' was selected for a modern-day reinterpretation. With motoring greats such as Jochen Rindt, Derek Bell, Gilles Villeneuve, Graham Hill, Mario Andretti, and Steve McQueen wearing the model and being brand ambassadors, how could they not choose it? Evolved from the prototype Jack Heuer created for himself for rally use, the Autavia 2017 still retains its reverse panda dial, hands, vintage Heuer logo, and same style case style, now increased to 42mm and Heuer 02 calibre movement. Various straps can be selected, from classic black leather and distressed calfskin to a metallic bracelet, resulting in a price range from 4,800 to 4,950 CHF.

Photos: Monobloc / Zenith / Chopard / Techframe / Tag Heuer

Gallery

