



PIAGET'S EXTREMELY PIAGET
DOUBLE SIDED CUFF WATCH

TOP SPOT

Greubel Forsey's Tourbillon 24 Secondes Vision took the top prize at the 2015 Grand Prix D'Horlogerie De Geneve, the luxury watch industry's equivalent of the Oscars

BY CHUANG PECK MING

IT MUST have come as a bit of a surprise to quite a few collectors and watch writers that Greubel Forsey's Tourbillon 24 Secondes Vision took the top prize at last year's Grand Prix D'Horlogerie De Geneve (GPHG), the luxury watch industry's equivalent of the Oscars. The name Greubel Forsey speaks of ultra-sophisticated tourbillons with mega prices to match. The simple, classical Tourbillon 24 Secondes Vision, with a price tag only half the usual near-million-dollar price for a Greubel Forsey tourbillon, did not fit that image.

Indeed, the response when the Tourbillon 24 Secondes Vision was launched early last year was underwhelming; some even sniffed at it. But Greubel Forsey is having the last laugh. The GPHG judges picked the Tourbillon 24 Secondes Vision to be the best overall watch in 2015 – not just the best tourbillon complication or most innovative timepiece, both of which would fall within Greubel Forsey's forte.

And the judges did not pick it only for its "classic elegance", but also because it reflects a clever use of technology and craftsmanship in building a highly sophisticated complication packed almost impossibly in a slender case.

The best tourbillon prize went to Ulysse Nardin's Ulysse Anchor Tourbillon, which incorporates the brand's constant force escapement "with a design that breaks completely with the traditional watchmaking approach".

The prize could have gone to independent watchmaker Antoine Preziuso's Tourbillon of Tourbillons, a watch with incredibly three tourbillons. This super tourbillon was given the innovation watch prize instead. It was also popularly voted for the Public prize.

Piaget also scored a double win. One was with its ultra-thin Altiplano Chrono for the Chronograph Watch prize and the other with its Extremely Piaget Double Sided Cuff Watch for the Revival Watch prize. The latter is a re-edition of a vintage piece from 1970.

Independent watchmaker Kari Voutilainen picked up the prize for Men's Watch with the Voutilainen GMR, which has a 24-hour second time zone and retrograde power reserve indicator. This was his third win in three straight years. Mr Voutilainen won the best Men's Watch in 2013 and the best Artistic Crafts Watch last year.

Independent watchmakers Habring2, after winning in 2013 the Petite Aiguille prize for great but affordable timepieces, repeated their performance in this category with Felix, a simple watch equipped with an impressively accurate inhouse movement, Habring2's first.

Habring2 also won the Sports Watch Prize in 2012, which in 2015 also went to another repeat winner – Tudor. Tudor clinched the prize with its new Pelagos model, a striking watch that boasts a blue dial and a titanium case housing its first in-house movement. Tudor's Heritage Black Bay won the Revival Prize in 2013.

A total of 17 prizes were given out at the prize-giving ceremony held in Geneva last October, including a Special Jury Prize for the watchmakers at Vacheron Constantin who created the Reference 57260, the world's most complicated watch. The Public Prize was a separate prize decided by Internet voting. ■



TUDOR'S PELAGOS



AUDEMARS PIGUET'S
DIAMOND PUNK



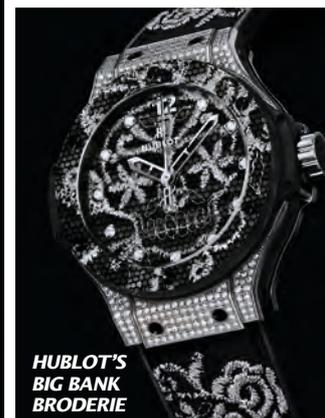
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PREZIUOSO'S
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GREUBEL FORSEY'S
TOURBILLON 24
SECONDES VISION



HABRING2'S
FELIX



HUBLOT'S
BIG BANG
BRODERIE



FABERGE'S
LADY COMPLIQUEE
PEACOCK

GPHG 2015 WINNERS

Aiguille D' Or Grand Prix: Greubel Forsey, Tourbillon 24 Seconds Vision

Ladies' Watch: Hublot, Big Bang Broderie

Ladies' High-Mech Watch: Faberge, Lady Compliquee Peacock

Men's Watch: Kari Voutilainen, Voutilainen GMR

Chronograph Watch: Piaget, Altiplano Chrono

Tourbillon Watch: Ulysse Nardin, Ulysse Anchor Tourbillon

Calendar Watch: Hermes, Slim d'Hermes QP

Striking Watch: Girard Perregaux, Minute Repeater Tourbillon with Gold Bridges

Mechanical Exception Watch: Jaquet Droz, The Charming Bird

Petite Aiguille: Habring2, Felix

Sports Watch: Tudor, Pelagos

Jewellery Watch: Audemars Piguet, Diamond Punk

Artistic Crafts Watch: Blancpain, Villeret, cardan Shakudo

Revival Watch: Piaget, Extremely Piaget Double Sided Cuff Watch

Innovation Watch: Antoine Preziuso, Tourbillon of Tourbillons

Horological Revelation: Laurent Ferrier, Galet Square

Special Jury Prize: Micke Pintus, Yannick Pintus, Jean-Luc Perrin – the three Vacheron Constantin watchmakers who developed the Reference 57260 watch

Public Prize: Antoine Preziuso, Tourbillon of Tourbillons