

1) Rolex Oyster Perpetual (estimated under S\$8,000)

The latest Oyster Perpetual model comes in different case sizes (26, 31, 34 and 39 mm) and dial hues (olive green, red grape, champagne or dark rhodium), but one thing stays constant: the Oyster stainless steel case that is waterproof to a depth of 100 m – a reminder that it is the world's first waterproof wristwatch. Another feature that has been unchanged since the watch was launched nearly 90 years ago in 1926 is its absence of functions other than a reliable and accurate time display. While the Oyster Perpetual has appeared in cases of varying sizes, 39 mm is its first and largest. The watch is powered by an automatic Rolex movement certified by the Swiss Official Chronometer Testing Institute, or COSC.

2) Longines Pulsometer Chronograph (S\$6,360)

Just what the doctor ordered. This reissue of a model which first appeared in the 1920s not only tells time with precision, but also measures heart beats with accuracy. It is fitted with an automatic movement housed in a 40 mm stainless steel case. The dial is lacquered.

3) Vulcain 50s Presidents' Watch (S\$8,770)

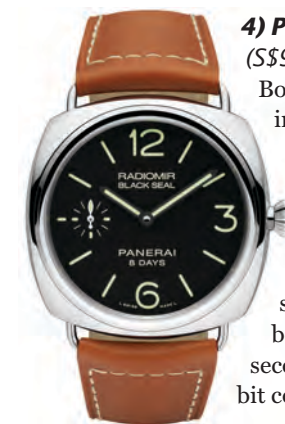
The iconic Vulcain Presidents' Watch that is fitted with the famous Cricket hand-winding alarm movement is given a restyled dial in a range of colourful ways. The collection features a 42 mm steel case and a subtle guilloche finish complemented by a bracelet designed to match the dial.

4) Panerai's PAM610 and PAM609 (S\$9,150 and S\$9,700, respectively)

Both timepieces are powered by Panerai's in-house P5000 calibre which boasts eight days' power reserve, against an ETA movement with 60 hours' power reserve in the previous models. Both also have a black dial with luminous Arabic numerals and hour markers in a 45 mm stainless steel case. The only difference between them is that the PAM609 has a seconds sub dial at 9 o'clock which makes it a bit costlier than the PAM610.

5) Bulgari's Diagono Magnesium (S\$5,970)

This timepiece is also an intelligent "wrist-vault" that is touted as the first concept watch to guarantee total security of personal data. Developed together with WISEKey, a leading Swiss company in digital security and data storage, Diagono Magnesium has a cryptographic chip and invisible antenna which – using Near Field Communication technology (NFC) – enables the watch to transmit a digital certificate to the Bvlgari Vault application downloaded and set up on a smartphone (iOS and Android systems). NCS is to date the most secure in the realm of data transmission. To activate the application, simply place the watch near the phone which also has an NFC chip. Only the watch owner has access to the confidential content recorded here with banking-level security. The watch is driven by an automatic movement housed in a 41 mm steel case which is magnesium and polymer – very light but strong materials used to make airplanes and high-powered cars – in the middle. The ceramic bezel is engraved with a double Bulgari logo. The caseback is made of black PVD, while the crown is steel PVD set with a black ceramic lozenge.



6) IWC's Ingénieur Automatic Edition "Laureus Sport for Good Foundation" (S\$9,300)

Part of the money raised from the sale of this special edition, limited to 1,500 pieces, will go to help kids in crisis-hit parts of the world. Launched in April, the watch, which has a 40 mm stainless steel case housing an IWC in-house automatic movement, is the ninth in a series of special editions that IWC released to support the work of the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation. The foundation was started in 2000 by Richemont Group chairman Johann Rupert to use sports to help children handicapped by poverty, homelessness, war, violence, drug abuse, discrimination and Aids. As with past editions, the latest model also spots a Laureus blue dial. Engraved on the caseback is a drawing done by a girl from Uganda who won the 2014 IWC children's drawing competition. Her picture of a group of happy cheerleaders with poms-poms celebrating a goal is based on the subject of the competition, "Time to celebrate". The watch, which has extra protection against magnetic fields, is sold at the IWC boutiques at ION Orchard and Marina Bay Sands.

7) TAG Heuer Carrera – Calibre Heuer 01 (S\$7,200)

This chronograph is the culmination of a five-year makeover, making it the only 100 per cent manufactured chronograph available at a price as low as this. The watch pays homage to the brand's founder, Edouard Heuer, and is equipped with a new automatic movement nestled in a 45 mm steel case with a black skeleton dial.

8) Oris Calibre 111 (S\$7,500 in steel)

Calibre 110 launched last year was the first Oris watch driven by the brand's first in-house movement in 35 years, but the production was limited to 110 pieces to celebrate Oris' 110th anniversary. Calibre 111 marks Oris' return to making its own in-house movement in a big way – "industrialising the production of this uniquely complicated calibre", in the brand's words. The new Calibre is equipped with the same hand-wound movement in Calibre 110, housed in a 43 mm stainless steel or rose gold case.

9) Glashutte Original's Pavonina Stainless Steel (S\$8,100)

Seven models of this lady's collection were launched this year, with variations in the dials, materials and bracelets. But all the models are driven by a quartz movement resting in a 31 x 31 mm "cushion" shaped case that was fashionable in the 1920s. This steel version has a galvanised silver dial with Arabic numerals and rhodium-plated hands. Buyers have the choice of a satin strap or steel bracelet.

10) Omega Globemaster (S\$9,800, S\$9,950 in steel bracelet)

Powering this new dress watch that belongs to the brand's Constellation family is Omega's most advanced mechanical movement, one that makes the timepiece the world's first Master Chronometer. It is the first mechanical watch to not only exceed

COSC standards, but also pass the stringent tests that are part of the certification process approved by the Swiss Federal Institute of Metrology, or METAS. The latter has teamed up with Omega to introduce a higher quality standard for the Swiss watchmaking industry which requires – among other criteria relating to precision, power reserve and water resistance – the movement of a watch to function well even when exposed to magnetic fields greater than 15,000 gauss, 15 times stronger than the most powerful anti-magnetic calibre in the market before Omega launched its Master Co-Axial movement in 2013. Apart from the new automatic Co-Axial movement that is housed in a 39 mm steel case (there is also a gold version), the Globemaster is also defined by a dial created in a style that watch fans have long referred to as a pie-pan dial. The bezel is also "fluted", as with several famous Constellation models.

11) Sinn EZM 7 S (S\$5,800)

A watch for a fireman or rescue worker, the EZM 7 S is especially resilient to the penetration of water and dust, scratches, temperature change and magnetic forces. The rotating bezel is colour-coded to make it as easy as child's play when using breathing protection apparatus to set and read off key durations – from CSA to LPA. The watch is equipped with an automatic movement in a 43 mm steel case with a segment black hard coating for extra scratch resistance. It is a limited edition of 300 pieces.

12) Montblanc's Heritage Spirit Orbis Terrarum (S\$7,900)

A world-time watch with an automatic movement in a 41 mm stainless steel case, the Spirit Orbis literally offers a global perspective to time in the world. The world itself, "orbis terrarum" in Latin, is at the core of the complication and at the centre of the dial. The multilayer dial made of sapphire crystal displays the continents viewed from the North Pole, encircled by the name of 24 cities representing the different time zones. Under the continent cut-outs, a disc showing day/night as well as the 24 hour time zones rotates with the movement mechanism, causing the continents to change colour as day evolves into night.

13) Tudor North Flag (US\$3,550 in leather strap, US\$3,675 in steel bracelet)

A rugged looking timepiece inspired by the British North Greenland Expedition in the 1950s, the North Flag is Tudor's first watch to be equipped with a Tudor in-house movement – an automatic calibre with a bidirectional rotor system and boasts 70 hours' power reserve. Officially certified by COSC, the watch has a 40 mm steel case with a double bezel in steel and ceramic.

14) Longines DolceVita (S\$4,610)

The new model in stainless steel with a diamond-studded bezel is inspired by the Italian sweet life, or "dolce vita". The latest interpretation of the timepiece subtly combines geometric lines with soft curves. The lines of the rectangular case, which houses a quartz movement, have therefore been elongated and arched.



AFFORDABLE LUXURY

BY CHUANG PECK MING

Luxury timepieces once thrived on exclusivity guaranteed by sky-high prices. With the excesses in the industry purged by the 2007 global recession and China's current anti-corruption drive, many big names in the luxury watch business, it appears, are now turning the old success formula on its head. The sales pitch now is "accessible luxury", aimed at a wider market. Presented here is a pick of some of the watches launched this year which are priced under S\$10,000. While the prices may still be high for many, they have at least come down nearer to earth.