

BLUE IS THE NEW BLACK

Blue timepieces are as cool as, if not cooler than, black ones. Just look at the number launched this year. Here is only a sample. **BY CHUANG PECK MING**



1) The first **Tudor Black Bay** with a burgundy bezel won the 2013 Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Geneve, the watch industry's Oscar. It won in the "Revival" category. Except for a blue bezel, the new Black Bay is the same as the original. It is equipped with an automatic movement housed in a 41 mm steel case. Price: S\$3,874 with leather strap.

2) The tourbillon in this **Gruebel Forsey** creation makes a turn once every 24 seconds, not 60 seconds like most tourbillons. Hence the name **Tourbillon 24 Secondes Contemporain**. It is powered by a light but tough hand-wound movement put together by parts made largely of titanium, with 72 hours' power reserve. The movement is contained in a 43.5 mm platinum case. The complication is priced at S\$702,990.

3) The **Corum Admiral's Cup AC-One 45 Tides** is powered by an automatic movement, the CO 277, that is capable of indicating the time and strength of the tides, the lunar cycle as well as the strength of the currents and the height of the tides. The power reserve is 42 hours. The 45 mm, 12-sided case is made of titanium. The watch is water-resistant to 300 m. Price: S\$14,659.

4) This **Audemars Piguet's Royal Oak Offshore Chronograph** sports a blue dial and matching blue rubber strap. Housed in its 42 mm steel case is an automatic movement that has 50 hours' power reserve. It is priced at S\$33,500.

5) Blue must be really cool for Rolex to launch a new watch based on the colour. There's nothing really "new" in the latest **Oyster Perpetual Milgauss** other than the Z blue dial – a name derived from its zirconium content. Like the Milgauss launched in 2007, which introduced a green sapphire crystal, a first in watchmaking, the latest model is also designed to resist strong magnetic interference of up to 1,000 gauss. A watch built for technicians, engineers and scientists, the new Milgauss features a 40 mm steel case which houses an automatic Rolex movement. Price: S\$10,710.

6) The slightly-domed dial of the **Girard-Perregaux 1966** is presented in a deep blue tone, held in a 38 mm pink gold case. The striking combination of pink and blue is the defining feature of Girard-Perregaux's iconic 1966 model. Beneath the dial beats an automatic movement which has up to 46 hours' power reserve. Price: S\$22,000.

7) The **Rotonde de Cartier Earth and Moon** combines a tourbillon, moon-phase and a second time zone where, at the push of a button, the tourbillon appears as the moon. The second time zone is indicated by a 24-hour disk at 12 o'clock. Estimated at S\$334,000, the super complication has a 47 mm platinum case and is powered by a manual-winding movement with three days' power reserve.

8) **Omega's Seamaster Aqua Terra**, which unveiled the brand's new anti-magnetic movement in 2013, reappears this year in several guises, including one in a blue dial held by a steel case (one is 38.5 mm and another 41.5 mm). The new Seamaster Aqua Terra 150m – it is water-resistant to 150 m – is fitted with the anti-magnetic Master Co-Axial calibre 8500. Price: S\$7,600.

