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the very high quality of its balance. Price: 39,000 Swiss francs (S\$52,650).

**3) Omega's Speedmaster Dark Side of the Moon** features a 44.25 mm case that is fashioned from single block of black ceramic. It is complemented by a matching black ceramic dial crafted from black zirconium oxide. The sporty chronograph is powered by an automatic movement with 60 hours of power reserve. Price: 10,800 Swiss francs (S\$14,580).

**4) Urwerk's EMC** is the world's first mechanical timepiece in which you can track and adjust the timing to suit your lifestyle. Price: 118,000 Swiss francs (S\$159,300).

**5) Blancpain's Women Off-Centred Hour** offers both look and performance. The watch is set with 152 diamonds, including 108 pieces totalling one carat on its 36.8 mm red gold case. Diamonds are also sprinkled on its white mother-of-pearl dial.

At the heart of the timepiece is an automatic movement that beats at 28,800 vibrations per hour and boasts a power reserve of 72 hours. Price: 30,800 Swiss francs (S\$41,580).

**6) A Lange & Sohne's Richard Lange Perpetual Calendar Terraluna** is no ordinary perpetual calendar. It features an orbital moon-phase display on the movement side of the watch, showing for the first time in a wristwatch the location of the moon relative to the earth and the sun. The famous Lange outside date also appears for the first time in a Richard Lange model in this complication.

The Terraluna has a power reserve of 14 days. With so much energy stored in the spring barrel, special precautions have to be taken to keep the watch stable. So it is fitted with a constant force escapement to keep the timepiece balanced. Price: 216,800 Swiss francs (S\$292,680).

**7) Seiko's Grand Seiko** watches have lived up to the pure essence of watchmaking – high accuracy, legibility and reliability – since the birth of the line in 1960. The Hi-Beat 36000 GMT, with a 24-hour GMT hand added, is an enhancement of the early models. Its balance springs are made of a new alloy, Spron 610, to deliver greater resistance to magnetism and shock. The escapement wheel and pallet fork are engineered using Micro Electro Mechanical Systems technology for greater precision and durability. There is also a new reverser which increases the winding efficiency.

The watch, which has a 40 mm steel case, is powered by an automatic movement that beats at 36,000 vibrations per hour. It has 55 hours of power reserve. Price: 7,750 Swiss francs (S\$10,463).

**8) Zenith's El Primero Lightweight**, as its name suggests, was made to be as light as possible without compromising performance and originality. Thus the chronograph is a combination of titanium and silicon movement with a 45 mm ultra-sporty carbon case. The automatic movement has a power reserve of 50 hours and beats at 36,000 vibrations per hour. Price: 17,500 Swiss francs (S\$23,635). ■

BY CHUANG PECK MING

## TAKE A BOW

Have a closer look at some of the prize winners of the 14th Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Geneve

SOME 16 prizes were handed out at the 14th Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Geneve, held last October in Geneva, Switzerland. It is the watch industry's equivalent of the Oscars – and the grand winner for 2014, the Aiguille d'Or Grand Prix (best overall watch), was Breguet's Classique Chronometrie. Independent watch brand Urwerk's EMC won two prizes: Mechanical Exception Watch and Innovation Watch. The rest of the winners are:

- **Ladies' Watch Prize:** Blancpain's Women Off-centred Hour
- **Ladies' High-Mech Watch Prize:** Christophe Claret's Margot
- **Men's Watch Prize:** Urban Jurgensen & Sonner's Central Second
- **Chronograph Watch Prize:** De Bethune's DB29 Maxichrono Tourbillon
- **Tourbillon Watch Prize:** Gronefeld's Parallax Tourbillon
- **Calendar Watch Prize:** A Lange & Sohne's Richard Lange Perpetual Calendar Terraluna
- **Striking Watch Prize:** Hublot's Classive Fusion Cathedral Tourbillon Minute Repeater
- **Petite Aiguille Prize** (best watch under retail price of 8,000 Swiss francs (S\$10,800): Seiko's Grand Seiko Hi-Beat 36000 GMT
- **Sports Watch Prize:** Zenith's El Primero Lightweight
- **Jewellery Watch Prize:** Bulgari's Diva High Jewellery Emeralds
- **Artistic Crafts Watch Prize:** Voutilainen's Hisui

- **Revival Watch Prize:** Omega's Speedmaster Dark Side of the Moon
- **Special Jury Prize:** Walter Lange

A sample of the winners include:

**1) Bulgari's Diva High Jewellery Emeralds** recalls the golden age of silver screen legends. Diva embodies the Dolce Vita era during which Bulgari and the world of movies were one. Price: 620,000 Swiss francs (S\$837,000).

**2) The Classique Chronometrie** makes use of innovative magnetic pivots to raise the bar in precision for timekeeping. The average rate of this hand-wound timepiece, in pink or white gold, is -1/+3 seconds a day, well within the COSC chronometer standard of -4/+6 seconds a day. More importantly, the difference in rate between the six positions is brought down to -2/+4 seconds a day (maximum wind).

Housed in the Classique Chronometrie's 41 mm case is a movement fitted with a double balance-spring, pallet lever and escape wheel, all in specially prepared silicon that reaches the high frequency necessary for optimum precision. The result: a regulating power equivalent to around 830 microwatts, against 300-400 microwatts in the best chronometers.

Despite its high frequency, the Classique Chronometrie has 60 hours of power reserve – thanks not just to the energy stored in its barrels, but also to