Haute horlogerie as a manifestation of sublime artisanship

The realm of timepieces has two hemispheres: the inner life of a watch and its outward appearance. The movement that ticks inside keeps track of time and controls the indications. The external elements protect the movement and make the watch operable. To a great extent, they are responsible for the aesthetic appeal of the timepiece. At Patek Philippe, these two hemispheres combine to form a single cosmos in which the movement and the appearance of the watch constitute an inseparable entity. In the past years, the inner life of Patek Philippe timepieces was showcased at Baselworld, with emphasis on silicon technology, the chronograph initiative, and minute repeaters. Now, at Baselworld 2013, the manufacture is more actively focusing on the visual facets. Five new models are being presented to remind enthusiasts how many different professions and how much artisanal skill is needed to elevate the inimitable aesthetic grace of Patek Philippe watches to the highest levels of perfection. And these five timekeeping instruments justify a question: can the terms “complication” and “grand complication” apply to external features as well?

In addition to this focus on appearance, ranging from exclusive cases and elaborate dials to opulently fashioned clasps, Patek Philippe is presenting a new caliber at this year’s Baselworld. The new movement is housed in a consummate way that celebrates the pinnacle of casemaking. The Ref. 5200 Gondolo 8 Days, Day & Date Indication, is a “case in point.”

Patek Philippe Calatrava Ref. 5227
An officer and a gentleman

Patek Philippe merged the key external elements of the Calatrava collection and its Officer’s models to present the new Calatrava Ref. 5227, a unique masterpiece of the casemaker’s art. Its 18K-gold case has a diameter of 39 mm and exhibits the typical Calatrava contours with elegantly curved lugs. The most exclusive feature is the display back, protected by a separate dust cover with a totally concealed hinge. As soon as the case is opened, it becomes evident that this hinge alone calls for the ultimate in craftsmanship on the part of the casemaker. The same applies to the elongated flutes that extend from the case flank into the lugs, enhancing the slender silhouette of the case. Each of these flutes is carved out of the gold and then, as all other case parts, polished by hand to a mirror sheen. The exceptionally elegant case accommodates a self-winding movement in a class of its own. It is the legendary caliber 324 SC, now endowed with the innovative
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Patek Philippe's new Ref. 5200 Gondolo 8 Days, Day & Date Indication wristwatch for men unites coveted features such as a power reserve of more than one week, an anatomically contoured, rectangular Art Deco case, and a newly developed, manually wound form movement with innovative silicon components.

The instantaneously switching calendar with a date by hand and an aperture for the day of the week is another exclusive asset. Both indications advance simultaneously at midnight within 3 milliseconds.

The new caliber 28-20 REC 8J PS IRM C J form movement was inspired by the Ref. 5100 “10-Day” first presented in the year 2000. The integrated twin mainspring barrel is guaranteed to deliver power for 192 hours. Its great energy efficiency is due not least to the patented escapement with a Spiromax® balance spring and a Pulsomax® lever and escape wheel. These extremely lightweight components are virtually friction-free. When viewed through the anatomically curved display back, these high-tech components are easy to identify by their purple-blue shimmer.

The innovative marathon runner is accommodated in a cambered, rectangular white-gold case with two-tiered flanks as a tribute to the true Art Deco style. The dial features an 8-day power-reserve display in the upper half as well as the date by hand, the large day-of-week aperture, and the subsidiary seconds dial in the bottom half. It is available in sunburst blue and silvery white versions.

With its rectangular case and matching form movement, the Ref. 5200 Gondolo 8 Days, Day & Date Indication clearly shows that the inner life of a watch and its outward appearance are indeed inseparable.

Patek Philippe Calatrava Ref. 7121
A divine gem for the wrist

The Calatrava Ref. 7121 is a moon-phase watch for ladies that presents the changing faces of the earth's companion in a wreath of brilliant-cut diamond stars. In addition to the romantic complication and the precious gems, the timepiece incorporates a mechanical movement – an asset that is gaining popularity among women. The Ref. 7121 comes in a classic round case in yellow gold, fashioned in the timelessly elegant Officer's style. With a diameter of 33 mm, it
has a very contemporary format. Its caliber 215 PS LU is a mechanical movement with a legendary reputation in the world of horology. Apart from keeping the time with chronometric accuracy, it tracks the moon phases so precisely that a correction by one day is needed only every 122 years. But that responsibility can be handed down to a next-generation grandchild who will appreciate the grace of the Calatrava style, the fire of the flawless Top Wesselton diamonds totaling about 0.54 ct, and the magnificent fine-grained dial with applied Breguet numerals in gold. Patek Philippe ladies’ watches are endearing lifelong companions, but secretly, their owners merely look after them for the next generation, just like men do with theirs.

The Calatrava Ref. 7121 is a decidedly feminine timepiece that graces the wrist in any setting, be it private or business, casual or formal. It is worn on a matt pearly beige alligator strap with large square scales that matches the hue of the yellow-gold case and is secured with an 18K yellow-gold prong buckle.

**Patek Philippe Calatrava Ref. 7200**

**Everything a woman needs**

The new Patek Philippe Calatrava Ref. 7200 in 18K rose gold is a ladies’ wristwatch fully devoted to displaying hours and minutes. It indicates neither seconds nor the date nor other extras – only the time in its most unhurried manifestation. A woman who so systematically focuses on the essence of things expresses a preference for timeless perfection in its most feminine incarnation. The personality of this new watch reflects the Bauhaus philosophy that “form follows function,” which inspired the design of the very first Calatrava presented in 1932. The fascination of the new Calatrava for ladies originates in the art of omission. Its svelte round Officer’s-style case has elegantly contoured flanks and straight lugs with screwed strap bars. The time is indicated with two “Poire Stuart” hands, twelve applied numerals in rose gold, and sixty fine minute markers. A domed, scratch-resistant sapphire-crystal glass protects the elegant dial.

Beneath it lies sublime mechanical horology: the legendary, 2.53-mm thin caliber 240 with a 22K gold minirotor integrated in the plate as well as the innovative Spiromax® balance spring made of Silinvar®. The Patek Philippe Seal which it displays is the strictest hallmark of quality in the realm of watchmaking, including a promise of extreme reliability, high rate accuracy, and superb service for the life of the timepiece.

The new Calatrava ladies’ wristwatch Ref. 7200 is a discreet gem in 18K rose gold with a fantastic mechanical inner life. It is worn on a matt pearly beige alligator strap with a rose-gold prong buckle.