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FILENIOS WATCHES

LADIES COLLECTIONS



www.filenios.com

Athens 2023

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LADIES BEST WATCHES

Filenios personal advising service for buying selected watches is addressed both to men and women, interested in getting proper guidance for brand new or pre-owned timepieces. Especially for women, **Filenios (unpublished) database includes 66+ brand entries that have produced the best female wristwatches (approximately 200 models), at least for the last 50 years.** Needless to say, this e-guide is not addressed only to women, but also to men who look for an ideal gift.

Actually, there are 3 sources for ladies' watches: (1) The special brand collections of small size models, addressed exclusively to women. (2) The midsize models of unisex lines, addressed to small wrists (please check the downloadable e-book "Filenios Market Guide"). (3) The vintage men's watches, primarily from the 1950s and 1960s sized around 34mm, considered today unisex timepieces for any individual with a romantic approach for the past and the history of watchmaking (please check the downloadable e-book "Filenios Vintage Selections"). Despite the fact that female watch collections are restricted compared to men's options regarding complications and designing (due to size), this does not restrain women for searching and finding, or even collecting amazing timepieces of all types. Filenios database for ladies' watches focuses on the best models introduced since the 1970s, and covers all ranges, from basic to hyper luxury, setting a solid limit for the watch size. With very few exceptions, women's watches should not exceed 36mm, with the following scaling being more or less an international standard diachronically. Very small size 22-24mm, small size 25-27mm, medium size 28-30mm, large size 31-33mm, very large size 34-36mm, with very few extra-large size exceptions up to (strictly) 40mm, for sport or very particular (avant-garde) models.

Overall, this e-guide herein is rather compact considering that it deals with a topic that is significantly less elaborated in comparison with the history and the developments in the field of men's watches. All the photos used are credited to the official websites of the brands selected, without citation, and they definitely contribute to a very beautiful Filenios edition!

ΦΣ**LADIES WATCHES - HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Female watch collectors should not be a surprising phenomenon, thus vintage timepieces addressed to women is a major topic. What follows however is a very selective historical summary, not a detailed report on the evolution of ladies' timepieces since the scope of this work herein is to facilitate advising, not the provision of information in general.

The oldest timepiece worth mentioning is the hand wound 31mm Patek Philippe Calatrava ref.96, the very first model of this ultra-classic line, produced from 1932 to 1973, along with other midsize and small models like ref.7119 and ref.4819 being the preferable ones for women. The second one is Piaget Altiplano introduced in 1957, equipped with the ultra-thin hand wound Cal.9P till the late 1990s, for models like 901x, 902x, 903x, housed in gold 18k cases up to 36mm.

Moving on to the 1970s and the beginning of the quartz period, there are four (4) brands with significant model introductions. Since 1970, Rolex had equipped the small oyster perpetual models (26-31mm) with the exceptional automatic movements 2030/2035 setting the beginning of a new period for this phenomenal brand. In 1973, Cartier introduced Vendome (and later Trinity) models, based primarily on a special lug design (attached to the case) patented by Louis Cartier in 1934, but actually first utilized by Pierre Arpels (Van Cleef & Arpels) in 1949 upon the patent expiration. The same brand, three years later (1976), under the administration of Alain-Dominique Perrin (Cartier CEO 1975-1998), introduced the quartz line Tank Must reviving perhaps its most iconic model diachronically. Moreover in 1976, Audemars Piguet introduced the Lady's Royal Oak model 8638ST (29mm) equipped with automatic Cal.2062 (JLC based) produced until 1980 when succeeded by quartz editions (6008ST/66270/5614). Finally in 1977, Vacheron Constantin introduced the sport collection 222, produced in an approximate volume of 3,300 pcs till 1984 including 1,300 small 24mm quartz models, plus 1,000 midsize 34mm, 700 "jumbo" size 37mm as well as 300 square 31x31mm automatic watches, succeeded later on by the lines 333 and Phidias.

ΦΣ**LADIES WATCHES - HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

During the 1980s and 1990s, more than 20 significant models were introduced, with most of them being present till today, in the early 2020s current brand lines. Further to the iconic watches derived from the 1970s, and considering all these “future classic” models introduced till the early 2000s, I present in alphabetical order my “alternative” TOP-10 selection of collectible timepieces dedicated to women. All the listed models are addressed to watch enthusiasts (aficionados) who search for timepieces with historical character including art-deco, neo-classic, Bauhaus, sporty design models, equipped with mechanical or quartz movements.

1. BREITLING OCEANE QUARTZ 33mm
2. CARTIER ROADSTER QUARTZ 30x36mm
3. CHOPARD HAPPY SPORT AUTOMATIC or QUARTZ 26-36mm
4. FRANCK MULLER CINTREE CURVEX MECHANICAL or QUARTZ
5. HUBLOT CLASSIC STEEL-GOLD LADY QUARTZ 28mm
6. JAEGER LECOULTRE REVERSO LADY 22x33mm
7. NOMOS GLASHUTTE TANGENTE MECHANICAL 33mm
8. OMEGA CONSTELLATION LADY AUTOMATIC or QUARTZ
9. RADO INTEGRAL STEEL-CERAMIC QUARTZ 22x33mm
10. ROLEX CELLINI MECHANICAL or QUARTZ 25-33mm

All these watches are mostly available in the pre-owned market, priced from 1,000 to 10,000 euro depending on the case material and the brand range. Vintage or pre-owned watches (especially mechanical), need proper service from competent technicians, and this might prove relatively expensive per case. In general, the lower the budget, the newer should be the watch in quest for any watch enthusiast or potential collector.

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LADIES WATCHES - BASIC RANGE

This is the lowest price segment of mostly fashion brands, and the market is oversaturated from this kind of cheap mass production watches, with few worth mentioning exceptions. Alphabetically and indicatively, the 12 most preferable brands are Bertucci, Bettel, Bobobird, Casio, DW, Holz kern, Ice, Mondaine, Picto, Skagen, Swatch, Timex including only quartz watches and covering several categories, from sport and military models to casual plastic, wooden, metallic and even historical ones, for a budget that usually does not exceed the limit of 300 euro.



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LADIES WATCHES - BASIC RANGE - SWATCH TRIBUTE

This e-guide coincides with the 40th anniversary of Swatch, the premier Swiss fashion brand with the diachronic and colorful 34mm plastic models



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LADIES WATCHES - MIDDLE RANGE

This category includes historical and newly established brands offering “value for money” watches including both quartz and mechanical - automatic models. The 12 most preferable brands are Archimede, Celeste, Citizen, Hamilton, Lip, Marathon, Michel Herbelin, Roamer, Seiko, Shinola, Stowa, Tissot offering products that are usually priced up to the optimum limit of 1,000 euro. These watches are normally found brand new, with rare (but existing) opportunities for pre-owned ones in this range considering that the price difference in any case is not expected to be significant, unless a specific brand or model is discontinued.



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LADIES WATCHES - MIDDLE RANGE



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LADIES WATCHES - HIGH RANGE

This is the most significant brand category for the women who search for a “real value” quartz or mechanical-automatic timepiece, without a significant compromise in quality, compared to the standards of the luxury brands. The 12 most preferable brands are Ebel, Epos, Juvenia, Longines, Maurice Lacroix, Movado, Nomos, Rado, Schaumburg, Sinn, Tudor, Union Glashutte, and it is worth mentioning that the pre-owned market offers affordable quartz and mechanical-automatic models from most of these brands, among others*. Moreover, this category offers the most preferable purpose-built watches like diver and GMT models (from 28mm to 36mm) that best suit to small female wrists. The brand new collections require an indicative budget of 1,000-2,000 euro, not counting gold18k or diamond-set watches, offered however in much lower prices, compared to the luxury brands presented further on.

*High range category is the preferable one worth looking for additional brand - models, primarily pre-owned (discontinued) from Baume & Mercier, Concord, Fortis, JS, Muhle-Glashutte, Oris, Paul-Picot, Raymond Weil, Tag Heuer, Temption, Titoni, etc.



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LADIES WATCHES - HIGH RANGE



LADIES WATCHES - HIGH RANGE - LONGINES TRIBUTE



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LADIES WATCHES - HIGH RANGE - SINN TRIBUTE



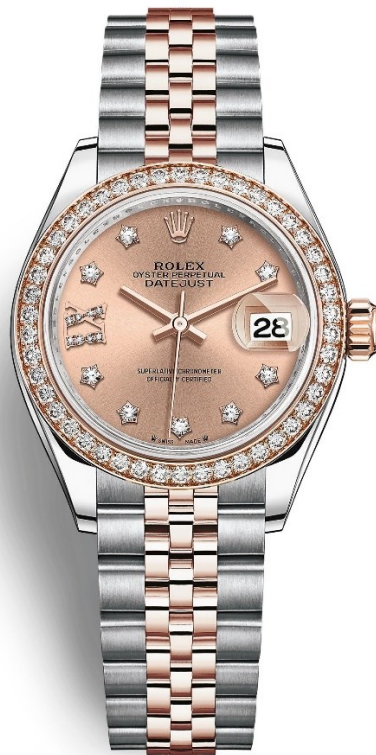


LADIES WATCHES - LUXURY RANGE

Filenios database for female watches includes 30 luxury brands with circa 100 models focusing on what is offered in the pre-owned market, along with the current contemporary lines that maintain most of the classic designs, introduced in the 20th century. **The luxury brands are distinguished in 5 groups (sub-categories)**, with the last one referring to avant-garde selections, and they are examined separately. Regarding the budget requirements, pre-owned watches start from around 1,500 euro, and the “rational” limit for one brand new diamond-set or top quality mechanical timepiece is 30,000 euro, without excluding some outstanding timepieces priced much higher, even with 6-digit numbers, for those who find them affordable.

The first group concerns the 4 traditional mass production brands, alphabetically being Breitling, Cartier, Omega and Rolex that are the most accessible overall, with pre-owned models available for budgets below 2,000 euro, for the first three, and below 3,000 euro for small Rolex models from the 1970s and 1980s. Breitling covers fully the casual-sport category with quartz models like Wings Lady, B-Class, Callistino, Oceane, Cockpit, Galactic, Chronomat since the 1990s. Cartier presents both quartz and mechanical models, primarily the square Tank and Santos, the Vendome/Trinity with special lug design, in addition to the modern lines of Roadster and Ballon Bleu, introduced in the 2000s. Omega also presents both quartz and automatic models covering all needs, from casual-dress to sport and diving watches including the lines Constellation (1982), Deville (1994), Seamaster (1993), and moreover the Speedmaster Reduced since 2003, one of the best female chronographs (automatic) ever appeared in the market. Finally, Rolex presents diachronically the “standard” all around (for all conditions with 100m water resistance) automatic Datejust, Date and no-date, Oyster Perpetual models maintaining their classic design for over 50 years now. One appealing tip for any woman interested in buying one of these models, is looking for a watch produced in her birth year (derived from the serial number on most cases) considering that the preferable female Rolex reference numbers start from the year 1970, like mentioned previously.

LADIES WATCHES - LUXURY RANGE



LADIES WATCHES - LUXURY RANGE - CARTIER BALLON BLEU



LADIES WATCHES - LUXURY RANGE - Ω SPEEDMASTER



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LADIES WATCHES - LUXURY RANGE - ROLEX CELLINI

Rolex dress line was named after the 16th century Italian goldsmith and sculptor Benvenuto Cellini, it was conceived by the brand's marketing manager Rene-Paul Jeanneret, and it was introduced in the late 1960s oversubscribing the pre-existing Midas collection since 1962. It is an undegraded line available for more than 50 years in the shadow of Oyster Perpetuals. Almost all female models have 2-hands indicating only hours and minutes, equipped with hand wound (HW) or quartz (Q) movements, housed in gold18k cases of 25-33mm, with rare exceptions like the 35mm Platinum **Cellinium** (ref.5240/6). The preferable mechanical models were produced from the middle 1970s using the in-house hand wound Cal.1600, designed in 1964 and upgraded to versions 1601 and later 1602 (since 1993) till the end of production in the late 2000s. The quartz models used the in-house 8-Jewel top quality Cal.6620/6621 produced from 1987 until 2015 in an approximate volume of 100,000 pcs. There are 6 collections of interest, addressed almost exclusively to women.

Midas collection preferable models are the rectangular 4012/4016 HW 24x33 and the asymmetrical 4015 HW 28X30, all housed in ribbed cases, plus the sibling edition 4150 HW 29x33mm.

Classic mechanical collection preferable models are 4129/4109/5109 (25-26mm), 4133/4112/5112/5115/5116 (31-32mm), plus 6110 (Q 25mm).

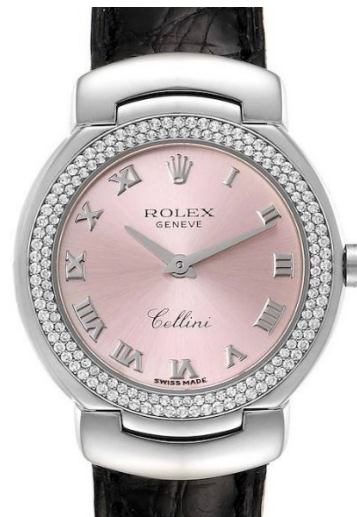
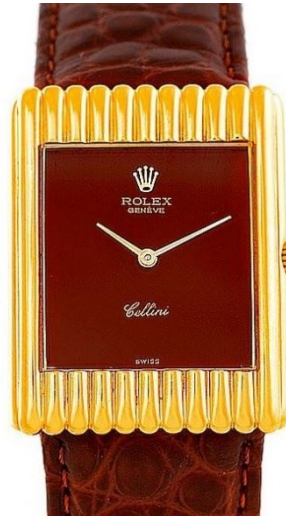
Danaos mechanical collection preferable models are 4223/4233 (33mm), plus the small quartz edition 6229 (25mm).

Cestello collection preferable models are 5310 (HW 26mm), 5320 (HW 32mm), 5330 (HW 36mm), plus the quartz diamond-set editions 6311 (26mm) and 6321 (32mm).

Quartz collection preferable models are 6621 (26mm), 6622 (33mm), 6623 (37mm), plus the white gold diamond-set **Cellissima** editions 6671/6673/6681 (26mm) and 6683 (33mm).

All the above Cellini models are addressed primarily to female collectors, and are available in the pre-owned market requiring an indicative budget from 3,000 up to 10,000 euro.

LADIES WATCHES - LUXURY RANGE - ROLEX CELLINI



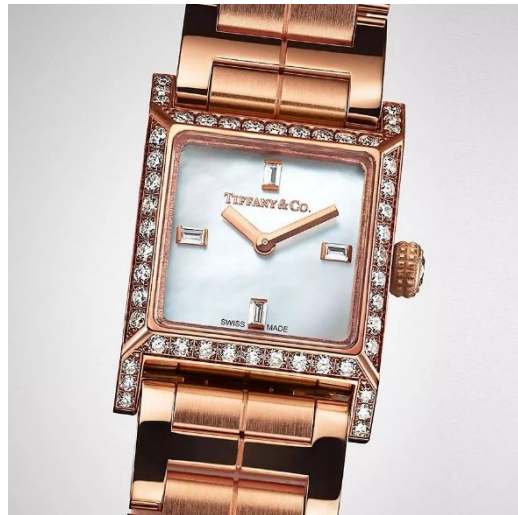
ΦΣ**LADIES WATCHES - LUXURY RANGE**

The second group includes 12 brands, alphabetically being Blancpain, Bulgari, Chopard, Chronoswiss, Corum, Franck Muller (FM), Grand Seiko (GS), Hublot, IWC, Jaeger LeCoultre (JLC), plus the American brands RGM and Tiffany & Co, with most of them offering long standing historical models requiring a minimum budget below 2,000 euro, in the pre-owned market. Some of the best offerings come from Chopard Happy Sport since the 1990s, IWC covering almost all needs with the lines Da Vinci, Portofino, Ingenieur and Pilot (with preowned models available since the 1980s), and JLC Reverso being a classic choice for the woman who knows about watchmaking. Moreover, the connoisseur woman collector (with the adequate financial capacity) should also be interested in Corum Golden Bridge, both the vintage models introduced in 1980, but also the Miss sub-line since 2010 requiring a minimum budget above 10,000 euro. Below this budget limit, one of the best casual watches around is the 40th anniversary Hublot Classic Fusion Original introduced in 2020. Finally, three more affordable choices (for pre-owned quartz models), are the Grand Seiko quartz models being a smart alternative to Rolex classic editions, plus the extensive collections of Bulgari and Franck Muller.



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LADIES WATCHES - LUXURY RANGE



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LADIES WATCHES - LUXURY RANGE - BULGARI TRIBUTE

BULGARI Lady quartz models are diachronically available in all six lines
Serpenti – Bulgari-Bulgari – Diagono – B.Zero 1 – Lucea – Divas' Dream



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LADIES WATCHES - LUXURY RANGE - BVLGARI TRIBUTE

BVLGARI Lady automatic models in Lucea and Diva's Dream collections include artistic, tourbillon, jumping hour with retrograde minute editions



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LADIES WATCHES - LUXURY RANGE - FM TRIBUTE

FRANCK MULLER Lady models (no date) Cintree Curvex collection – Heart quartz – Long Island & Master Square quartz – Vanguard mechanical TB



$\Phi\Sigma$ **LADIES WATCHES - LUXURY RANGE - FM TRIBUTE**

FRANCK MULLER Double Mystery automatic with rotating hour & minute discs – Preferable editions 39DM housed in 39mm gold diamond-set cases



$\Phi\Sigma$ **LADIES WATCHES - HYPER LUXURY RANGE**

Moving up to the hyper-luxury segment, **the third group concerns the 3+1 “graces” of the watchmaking industry. The “Holy Trinity” of Audemars Piguet (AP), Patek Philippe (PP), Vacheron Constantin (VC), plus Breguet**, with all of them requiring an indicative budget of 5,000 euro, for their most affordable pre-owned models, available at least since the 1990s. Selecting the most preferable ones, AP Royal Oak has been a standard luxury sport option (primarily the quartz editions) despite overpricing, Breguet Classique automatic ref.8067 (and diamond-set ref.8068) since the 1990s is one of the best choices for a female dress mechanical timepiece up to 10,000 euro (pre-owned), PP Twenty-4 quartz is a favorable selection for an elegant diamond-set watch with bracelet, and finally VC Overseas quartz since 1996 is considered the best “sea-going” luxury sport model, addressed to women. For typical reasons, it is worth mentioning two extreme choices being among the best and most expensive watches a woman could buy (excluding iced-out jewelry timepieces with ridiculous 7-digit prices). In my humble opinion, the best casual-sport female watch is AP Offshore diamond-gem-set 37mm automatic chronograph costing from circa 20,000 to more than 100,000 euro depending on materials, and the best casual-dress female timepiece ever presented in the industry is PP 7140 diamond-set 35mm automatic perpetual calendar, priced around 80,000 euro (photos below).



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LADIES WATCHES - HYPER LUXURY RANGE



ΦΣ**LADIES WATCHES - HYPER LUXURY RANGE - REINE DE NAPLES**

The historical origins of this timepiece go back to 1810 when Caroline Murat, queen of Naples and sister of Napoleon Bonaparte, ordered to A.L.Breguet a watch designed to be worn on the wrist. The egg-shaped watch delivered in 1812 had a repeater and moonphase function (among others), and it is acknowledged as the first known wristwatch in history! According to the article of Marie De Pimodan-Bugnon in the website www.watchesandculture.com, this watch was recorded with the number No.2639 featuring silver guilloché dial with Arabic numerals, lever escapement mechanism and gold case. Breguet archives reveal that 17 craftsmen were involved in its construction requiring 34 different operations. Despite that after its last recorded service in 1855, the traces of this original “royal beauty” have been lost, Breguet brand has introduced contemporary automatic re-editions since 2002 using the available register descriptions. The preferable versions include reference numbers 8918/8928 (2-hand), 9835/9838 (hour disk), 8908/8909 with power reserve and moonphase indicator, 8978 with striking hour function, 8998 with day/night indicator revealing the 24-hour rotating balance. All the above editions are housed in gem-set gold18k cases.



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LADIES WATCHES - HYPER LUXURY RANGE - REINE DE NAPLES



ΦΣ**LADIES WATCHES - HYPER LUXURY RANGE - PP REPEATERS**

Minute repeater watches that strike the hours - quarters - minutes on demand with the use of gongs, represent the pinnacle of watchmaking being the most demanding complication. Producing a small minute repeater watch is not just demanding but challenging, and this is the point where Patek Philippe has excelled since 1989 when introduced the model 3979 (left photo below), equipped with the automatic mechanism R27 that is used even today, housed in gold or platinum 33.5mm cases, and produced in a limited series of circa 100pcs until 2002. In 1997, ref.5029 was produced in a limited series of 30pcs, housed in 35mm cases (right photo below). Despite the fact that all the other three, AP, Breguet, VC presented mid-size minute repeater wristwatches during the 1990s, plus the recent involvement of other brands in respective female models, Patek Philippe appears to be the prominent manufacturer of minute repeaters dedicated to women starting with the introduction of ref.7000 that was produced from 2011 until 2017, housed in 33.7mm cases (middle photo below). In 2020, the same brand presented ref.7040 featuring hand-guilloched gold dial treated with blue enamel, the same automatic (micro-rotor) R27 movement with 39 jewels comprised of 342 parts, 36mm white gold case with 168 diamonds. Theoretically, the indicative price of 500,000 euro is the largest potential budget for a lady's timepiece.



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LADIES WATCHES - HYPER LUXURY RANGE - PP REPEATERS



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LADIES WATCHES - HYPER LUXURY RANGE

The fourth group deals with 6 small boutique brands, independent or not, that combine the classic jewelry-timepiece with the purist mechanical approach. Presented alphabetically, **Backes & Strauss** is specialized in diamond-set watches with Piccadilly line being the preferable one, available with quartz or mechanical movement. **Harry Winston** Avenue and Premier diamond-set collections are the epitome of luxurious design in the market. **Moritz Grossmann** is a German-Glashutte brand, perhaps the best example of an independent watchmaker presenting top quality female mechanical models with in-house developed movements, addressed to connoisseurs. **Parmigiani Fleurier** is another independent manufacture brand maintaining for several years now the line Tonda Metroplitaine, exclusively for women, and Selene moonphase is the last and most impressive edition. Finally, **Piaget and Van Cleef & Arpels** (both belonging to Richemont group) are the oldest brands in the group, and apart of using the same hand wound mechanism, they both maintain their long-standing classic unisex design, preferably combined only with mechanical calibers excluding quartz editions.



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LADIES WATCHES - HYPER LUXURY RANGE



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LADIES WATCHES - AVANT GARDE EPILOGUE

Finally, the fifth group includes 4 brands, Faberge, Girard Perregaux (GP), MB&F and Richard Mille (RM) offering avant-garde timepieces, that are perhaps the most impressive ladies' watches across the board, at least for today's standards in the early 2020s. These creations require not only an extremely high budget (with six digits for most of them), but also a serious mental involvement from the buyer who needs to know and comprehend what high-end watchmaking is all about, over and above the prestigious brand names mentioned herein.

Naturally, most readers of this tribute (like me as an editor) could not afford to buy such expensive watches, however their presentation proves that the progress and evolution of watchmaking is a privilege for both men and women, despite their unequal contribution share.

Faberge Compliquee Peacock is a mechanical timepiece winning the 2015 GPHG award (the highest distinction in the watchmaking industry) equipped with a 38-jewel hand wound movement, developed by Agenhor studio, that displays the time through a rotating hour ring and a retrograde minute system of 4 blades standing for the opening feathers of the artistic peacock crafted on the dial (check available videos in the web). It is housed inside gold or platinum cases of 38mm, available in several versions, and its indicative price starts from less than 40,000 euro moving up to more than 100,000 euro for the diamond-set editions.



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LADIES WATCHES - AVANT GARDE EPILOGUE

Girard Perregaux Bridges Tourbillon is a historical line of watches rooted back to the 19th century. Since 1991, GP has unveiled several wristwatch editions including the lady ref.9700 housed in small cases of 31mm. In the 2010s, GP introduced ref.99240 housed in 38mm round cases and ref.99495 Cat's Eye model housed in oval (32x37mm) cases, with a similar edition (ref.99490) winning the 2016 GPHG award. The last round edition ref.99242 was launched in 2020 housed again in 38mm cases. All these watches, equipped with hand wound or automatic (micro-rotor) movements are among the very few tourbillon timepieces dedicated to women, and even more are considered among the most beautiful timepieces diachronically. Indicative prices circa 50,000 - 200,000 euro.





LADIES WATCHES - AVANT GARDE EPILOGUE

MB & F LM Flying T (3D Column Tourbillon) winner of the 2019 GPHG award, automatic housed in 38x20mm case, with tag prices above 100,000 euro



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LADIES WATCHES - AVANT GARDE EPILOGUE

Richard Mille models RM007 and RM07 (multiple editions 01-04) have been essentially the two first sibling ladies' collections, introduced by this innovative brand in 2005 and 2013 respectively, equipped with top quality exclusive automatic movements and housed in large tonneau cases circa 31x45mm. The combination of modern design and selected or even patented elements and materials (gold, titanium, ceramic, carbon, carbon, quartz, sapphire) in the construction of both the case and the mechanism, have established RM watches as the top status symbol items in the watch market, and the brand itself as the ultimate case study in the history of watchmaking! The prices are at least 6-digit and totally market driven, fully compatible with the 21st century "neo-rich" times on planet Earth!

