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Hemispheres

DECEMBER 2021



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Reverse Engineering

In 1931, British soldiers in India had a conundrum:

how to play polo without damaging their wristwatches? Jaeger-LeCoultre offered an answer, engineering a reversible 8.5 mm case with a plain caseback to protect the glass and dial. The Reverso became the world's first luxury sports watch, and the introduction of colored dials planted it in the horological pantheon.

The 2021 Reverso Tribute Small Seconds has an emerald-green dial inspired by the forests around the Swiss factory. In a nod to the timepiece's history, the strap is handcrafted by renowned polo bootmaker Casa Fagliano. \$8,750, jaeger-lecoultre.com



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Green Means Go

[Start the clock with these must-have men's watches](#)

By Sahar Khan



Vacation Mode

Introduced in 1945 to commemorate Rolex's 40th anniversary, the Datejust made history as the first self-winding wristwatch to feature a date window that would automatically change over at midnight. The latest version, the Datejust 36 Palm Dial, sticks with the original's classic features, such as the Oyster bracelet and the Cyclops lens (a magnifier that sits atop the date) but creatively deviates with the dial's imprinted palm leaves, which evokes the sort of exotic locale that author and Rolex enthusiast Graham (ahem) Greene would have appreciated. *\$7,050, rolex.com*



Thin Is In

Italian jeweler Bulgari merges high style with haute horology in this Octo Finissimo timepiece. The octagonal black titanium case and bottle-green dial and matching alligator-leaf strap offer an understated elegance, but what really sets this watch apart is how close the case sits against the wrist. At just 2.23 mm thick (less than a 10th of an inch), it's the world's thinnest movement, yet it manages to fit in several impressive features, including a 60-hour power reserve and water resistance down to about 100 feet. *\$14,400, bulgari.com*



Reaching the Peak

The Montblanc 1858 Geosphere references a Minerva timepiece designed for mountaineers a century ago and is dedicated to the Seven Summits challenge. Fittingly for a watch that could be taken to the highest point on all seven continents, this limited-edition (only 1,858 were made) model is a world timer, which shows all the planet's time zones via two adjustable time zone displays on the sage green dial, one each for the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. A red dot pinpoints each of the aspired-to peaks. *\$6,600, montblanc.com*

Sporting Life

Longines' connection to sports in the U.S. stretches back to the late 1800s, when the Swiss watchmaker's chronographs were popular as timers for horse racing. In the early 20th century, the brand developed watches for aviation pioneers, and in the 1950s came a series of diving watches. The HydroConquest is part of the latter tradition, and this latest military-inspired olive drab piece doubles down on the line's technical prowess, with water resistance down to nearly 1,000 feet. \$1,800, longines.com



Style and Substance

Glashütte Original has been living up to German engineering's vaunted reputation since 1845, but the brand values technology and aesthetics equally. Part of the PanoMaticLunar series, this timepiece features the house's signature duplex swan-neck fine adjustment, which enables extreme precision, while the dial, set in a red-gold case and made entirely in-house, has a pleasingly off-center rotor and a striking green-to-black gradation. A glossy alligator strap completes the look. \$20,500, glashuette-original.com



Time to Ride

Breitling pays homage to the 1960s with its Top Time Classic Cars Squad, which takes inspiration from the decade's most iconic vehicles. Steve McQueen would surely have been a fan of this chronograph, which has a 42 mm stainless-steel case featuring a baize green face imprinted with the Ford Mustang pony logo and a tachymeter that shows when you're hitting the red line. A brown racing-themed calfskin strap evokes the American road trip, while the Breitling caliber 25 self-winding movement ensures you reach your destination right on time. \$5,500, breitling.com

