



WATCHES

Edited by SEAN LI



## Skeleton Crew

Timepieces reveal their inner beauty through smart engineering and artful engraving

**T**HE CREATION OF an openworked watch is an arduous process, beginning with a lengthy consideration of non-essential parts that can be trimmed away from the movement and what can later be decorated with engraving. To do this, the experience of a master watchmaker is essential—they hollow out as much material as possible while ensuring that the movement remains perfectly functional, resulting in a watch that is truly a work of art.

Vacheron Constantin is one of the true experts in the field of skeleton timepieces. And as if producing a tonneau-shaped calibre wasn't challenging enough, the brand raises the bar further with the Malte Tourbillon Openworked model—creating an original architectural motif based on the shape of a triangle and engraving this by hand onto the visible parts of the movement, a process that takes 500 hours.

Audemars Piguet impresses with its 39mm Royal Oak Openworked Extra-Thin Watch, which boasts such meticulous skeleton work that many argue it is one of the best of its kind. The timepiece features a self-winding calibre that is given the same slate-grey finish as the dial, lending the piece a contemporary look in striking contrast to its pink gold case.

Roger Dubuis highlights a complication that's become somewhat of a speciality of the brand—the double flying tourbillon—in the best way possible by encasing it in a very much skeletonised structure. Ever faithful to the codes of the Excalibur line, the Excalibur Skeleton Double Flying Tourbillon features the collection's identifiable round case with its signature steely fluted bezel and burly crown guard. This pink gold version with a black ceramic bezel comes in a limited production of only 188 pieces.



Clockwise from top left: Vacheron Constantin Malte Tourbillon Openworked watch; a watchmaker works on skeletonising the movement; Roger Dubuis Excalibur Skeleton Double Flying Tourbillon; Audemars Piguet Royal Oak Openworked Extra-Thin



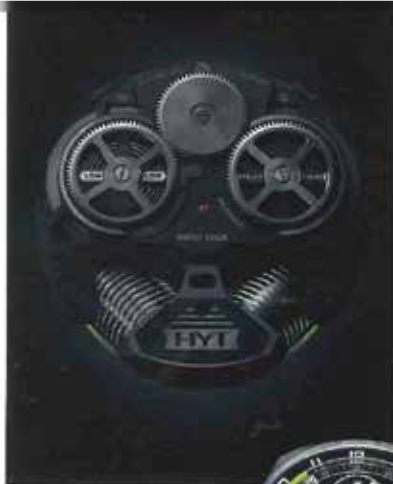
WATCH-MAKING MIND  
**VINCENT PERRIARD**

**BACKGROUND**

**Vincent Perriard** started his watch career at Audemars Piguet, where he was in charge of worldwide marketing. He worked briefly for the Swatch Group in New York and then became president of Concord. It was the end of 2010 when he met Lucien Vuillamoz, one of the partners of HYT, and was shown an invention of liquid moving in a capillary (or glass tube) and that can be used to display time. Perriard then partnered with Vuillamoz to create HYT.

**DESIGN SIGNATURES**

**HYT stands for** Hydro-mechanical Technology which combines traditional watchmaking with innovative materials and the brand's patented moving liquid retrograde display. The company's first watch, the H1, features a hand-wound movement with 65-hour power reserve and a straight piston configuration on the dial. The H2 is a leaner version of the H1, with



a 192-hour power reserve and a V-shaped piston configuration.

**BRAND PHILOSOPHY**

**The brand keeps** production numbers low, creating only about 600 watches per year. Each model comes in limited numbers between 20 and 50 pieces. HYT plays with materials including graphite, titanium, platinum, bronze and tech-alloys like alumin. as well as various colours of fluorescent liquid. Swiss watch assembly and movement maker Chronode designs and manufactures the movements, while HYT's sister company Preciflex, led by Vuillamoz, supplies the brand's liquid components.



A front and back view of the H2 in titanium with black DLC.

**TIMELY TREND**

Classic trends help inspire modern brand designs to sport:



Patek Philippe 1850 Submarine chronograph



Omega Speedmaster Moonwatch



McClung and Partners Carbon Performance



Hublot Big Bang watch



Rolex Daytona watch



**THE TALENT**

*Omega ambassador Rory McIlroy (pictured) carries the Claret Jug, one of the most coveted trophies in golf, as he claims victory at the British Open this July. He wears the Omega Seamaster Aqua Terra 150M.*