



Left: The Omega Speedmaster “CK2998” Limited Edition  
Below: Patek Philippe’s new World Time Chronograph

# Ones to watch

As the dust settles following the 2016 edition of the Baselworld watch show, *Upward Curve* looks at the latest timepiece trends and picks out the hottest new offerings from the world’s finest watchmakers

Recent months have undoubtedly been challenging for luxury watchmakers, with exports of high-end timepieces from Switzerland steadily declining since March 2015 and the market down 7.9 per cent by January this year, compared with the same month in 2015. But as the industry’s leading players gathered in Switzerland in March for the 2016 edition of Baselworld trade show, it was clear that there were reasons for optimism.

The undisputed trendsetting event for the world’s watch industry once again lived up to its reputation as the launching pad for global trends, with the show welcoming more than 145,000 attendees that comprised representatives from exhibiting companies, buyers, members of the public and journalists from more than 100 countries.

As the focal point of the entire industry, Baselworld 2016 provided attendees with a unique

opportunity to take the pulse of the market, discover those new influential collections that will prevail for the following 12 months and, just as importantly, to capitalise on the enormous business opportunities that are available exclusively at a show of this scale.

Following the conclusion of the event, it is clear that there will be a lot of exciting watches on the market this year, with a number of noticeable trends.

These included a preference for smaller timepieces, perhaps driven by the popularity of vintage designs, as well as the widespread use of stainless steel. New materials and colours, smartwatch innovations and skeletonised faces also stood out, while vintage-inspired motoring chronographs underlined once again that they are perennial favourites.

Here, we select some of the trendsetting innovations and creations presented at the show, which will soon be gracing

the show windows of the world’s finest boutiques.

## Omega Speedmaster “CK2998” Limited Edition

The original Omega CK2998 was released in 1959 and has since become one of the most sought-after vintage Speedmasters in the world. Now, Omega has used this classic model as inspiration for the new Omega Speedmaster “CK2998” Limited Edition – an updated model for a new generation of fans. In keeping with tradition, the watch retains its classic Alpha hands and symmetrical stainless steel case, with three sub-dials enriched by a deep blue. This colour theme continues on the bezel, with its tachymeter base scale, and the minutes track, as well as on the leather strap which includes subtle beige stitching. For the chronograph seconds hand, OMEGA has reintroduced the “lollipop” style that is linked to the original model, while, in a rare

move, the original Speedmaster Seahorse medallion has also been reintroduced and embossed on the screw-in caseback. Only 2,998 of these collectable watches have been produced, priced at US\$5,500 (€4,900). [www.omegawatches.com](http://www.omegawatches.com)

## Chopard L.U.C. Perpetual Chrono

An authentic collector’s watch for modern gentlemen, Chopard’s new L.U.C. Perpetual Chrono combines a hand-wound chronograph and a finely crafted perpetual calendar within an unprecedented L.U.C. movement – the Calibre 3.10-L. The L.U.C. Perpetual Chrono flaunts one of the most sophisticated styles and constructions in the world of Haute Horlogerie, while meeting the highest technical ethical and aesthetic standards. Issued in a “Fairmined” 18-carat white gold 20-piece edition and priced at US\$95,630 (€85,100), it is intended for watchmaking connoisseurs and devotees of exceptional objects. [www.chopard.com](http://www.chopard.com)

## Patek Philippe World Time Chronograph Ref. 5930

The new World Time Chronograph Ref. 5930 presents a combination of two long-standing Patek Philippe specialties that will delight many collectors and enthusiasts of ➤





Left: The glittering array of timepieces unveiled at Baselworld underlined the health of the luxury watch market Below: New offerings from Rolex (left) and Tag Heuer (right) always garner plenty of attention from enthusiasts and these two new chronographs were no exception

top-tier timepieces. It combines the Genevan watchmaker's patented World Time mechanism with a proprietary self-winding chronograph movement that comes in a round white-gold case and a dial with a blue, manually guilloché centre. Where conventional chronographs have a scale graduated in fractions of a second, the World Time Chronograph has a moving city disk with place names that each represent one of the 24 international time zones as well as a moving 24-hour ring on which the time is indicated for the city that stands directly above it. It is worn on a hand-stitched matt navy blue alligator strap with large square scales to match the dial, while an 18K white-gold Calatrava fold-over clasp keeps the watch comfortably secured to the wrist. The World Time Chronograph costs US\$75,500 (€67,000). [www.patek.com](http://www.patek.com)

**Breitling Avenger Hurricane**

Its stature, its material, as well as its 24-hour indication combine to make Breitling's new Avenger Hurricane a truly standout model. Featuring a huge

50 mm XXL diameter, it bucks the trend for smaller watches and instead features a sturdy construction equipped with lateral reinforcements and an all-black technical look enhanced by yellow accents and aviation-inspired stencil-type numerals. The case is made entirely out of Breitlight – a new high-tech material exclusive to Breitling that boasts a number of functional qualities. It is anti-magnetic, stable in respect to thermal variations and above all ultra-resistant to scratches, traction and corrosion. As a crowning touch, it is 3.3 times lighter than titanium and 5.8 times lighter than steel. The Breitling Avenger Hurricane costs US\$8,390 (€7,400). [www.breitling.com](http://www.breitling.com)

**Tag Heuer Monza Chronograph**

In 1976, Jack Heuer, the great grandson of the brand's founder, designed a chronograph to celebrate Niki Lauda's first

F1 world championship title with Ferrari. This 2016 reissue features the watch's two key functions – a pulsometer (to measure the heart rate) and a tachymeter scale (which converts time into speed) – as well as an all-black coussin case with black and white lacquered hour and minute hands, just like the historic original, which is highly sought after by collectors. Being so close to the spirit of the original, this model, which celebrates the 40-year anniversary of its predecessor, will undoubtedly receive similar attention, priced at US\$5,250 (€4,675) [www.tagheuer.com](http://www.tagheuer.com)

**Rolex Daytona**

The Cosmograph Daytona, introduced in 1963, was designed to meet the demands of professional racing drivers. With its highly reliable chronograph and bezel with tachymetric scale, it allowed drivers to perfectly measure average speeds up to



400 kilometres or miles per hour. For 2016, the aesthetics of the steel Cosmograph Daytona have evolved, introducing a superbly sculpted, smooth and lustrous high-technology monobloc Cerachrom bezel in black ceramic to replace the engraved metal bezel. This visual and technical evolution represents a nod to history and the 1965 model, which was also fitted with a black bezel insert, but in Plexiglas. This new Daytona received plenty of attention at Baselworld and there are reportedly already long waiting lists for the watch, which is priced US\$12,300 (€11,000). [www.rolex.com](http://www.rolex.com) ■