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JW

25 anniversary

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THE IT CROWN

TECHNOLOGY HAS CHANGED
HOW WE EAT, SHOP, LOVE, CREATE,
BUT IS IT A BLESSING OR A CURSE?

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BACKES & STRAUSS

The rich history of Backes & Strauss covers more than two centuries, stretching back to 1789. In the 19th century, the jeweller moved from Hanau in Germany to London, and the archives from that time are still a great source of inspiration for the current collections. One of the specialties of the house is the hearts and arrows pattern cut into its diamonds. The rose gold case of the Victoria Princess Red Rose is set with 212 of these ideal-cut diamonds and 12 rubies. The white mother-of-pearl dial is set with four diamonds and there are a further 388 diamonds and 32 rubies on the bracelet. The Victoria Princess Red Rose has a quartz movement.

VAN CLEEF & ARPELS

The shape of a sequin was what inspired Van Cleef & Arpels to create the Bouton d'Or watch. The sheen of the round, yellow gold links integrates harmoniously with the sparkle of the brilliant-cut diamonds in various formats. The play of the round forms – a design that was already being used by Van Cleef & Arpels in the 1940s and 1950s for bracelets and necklaces – is carried through to the dial of the 20mm case in which a quartz movement is placed.

CARTIER

Fifteen Mozambican rubies give this Trait d'Éclat its intense red glow. With this white gold jewellery watch, Cartier combines two of its favourite elements that are repeatedly found in its collections: rubies and ribbons. In the past, rubies have decorated jewellery that the house has made for maharajas and celebrities such as Grace Kelly and Elizabeth Taylor. In the Trait d'Éclat, the rubies are accompanied by baguette- and brilliant-cut diamonds and a mechanical Cartier calibre 101 movement.

WORDS
RUUD VAN SLOOTEN

The best of both worlds

BRACELETS OR WATCHES? THESE EXQUISITE TIMEPIECES ARE BOTH, OFFERING HAUTE JOAILLERIE AND HAUTE HORLOGERIE AT THEIR BEST



CHOPARD

For the decoration of this secret watch, the craftsmen in the Chopard studios were inspired by motifs from Inca art. Like a Pre-Columbian mosaic, turquoise and brilliant-cut diamonds form the decoration on the cover plate that transforms this watch into a beautiful bracelet. The pattern is repeated on the white, mother-of-pearl dial in the middle of the classic design, which is so characteristic of the Imperial collection it hails from. The 38mm case with a damask strap is made of Fairmined white gold and set with diamonds. It houses Chopard's automatic L.U.C. 96 12-L movement.

AUDEMARS PIGUET

Fittingly, Diamond Outrage is the name of this bracelet watch. This example of phenomenal haute joaillerie is a one-of-a-kind piece. Saying that it makes a statement is an understatement. The explosive look was created with a snow setting of 9,923 brilliant-cut diamonds that almost completely hide from view the underlying white gold. Three of the spikes are particularly eye-catching due to the 354 baguette-cut diamonds, in an invisible setting, that cover them. The Diamond Outrage has a quartz movement.

HARRY WINSTON

This Divine Time by Harry Winston is a watch and a pendant in one. The blue crocodile leather strap can be exchanged for a white gold necklace, set with a brilliant-cut diamond. The white gold case and dial are decorated with a total of 244 brilliant-cut diamonds, two baguette-cut diamonds, and 10 marquise-cut diamonds. The Divine Time runs on an HW1051 quartz movement.

BULGARI

The most well-known version of the Serpenti is the one with the expanding tubogas strap. This Serpenti Seduttori is slightly less flexible due to its solid white gold strap decorated with round brilliant and baguette-cut diamonds. The snake – an ancient Greek-Roman mythical symbol for wisdom, vitality and temptation – has a cabochon-cut sapphire on its head, while two pear-cut rubies form the eyes. In its open mouth, the white gold dial of the watch is visible. It is powered by a Calibre B033 quartz movement.

