

# Automatic Elegance

Before the quartz invasion, a slim gold wristwatch was considered the height of elegance. It still is. ALF CREMERS compares and contrasts four thin, round gold automatic watches made by Patek Philippe, Audemars Piguet, Breguet and Vacheron Constantin.





Since 1934, the name “Calatrava” has stood not only for the brand signature of Patek Philippe, but also for the most famous wristwatch made by the renowned Genevan *manufacture*. Its exterior has undergone only very minor changes in the course of decades, sometimes growing a tad larger, sometimes shrinking slightly smaller. In addition to these minimal changes, new case versions have also been introduced, for example, with *clous de Paris* on the bezel or a self-winding version with a microrotor built into the movement. But time, as they say, waits for no man. Nor for any watch. Slowly but surely, the spirit of the times caught up with the Calatrava and left the timepiece ticking in its wake.



The Patek Philippe Calatrava Grande Taille’s 37.5 mm. case communicates a sense of impressive mass and commanding authority.

The Calatrava shared the same fate that also befell other high-quality gold watches with leather wristbands and slim, noble, *manufacture* calibers. As the trend towards ever-larger and more ostentatious watches continued to gain steam, these “old-fashioned” timepieces seemed too small and nondescript, fine for grandfathers but hardly au courant. To make matters worse, the Calatrava was obliged to compete with a contender from its own house: the Patek Philippe Nautilus. But, to be honest, it was the Audemars Piguet’s Royal Oak that stole the show from the veteran Calatrava and other members of its exclusive genre.

But all that has changed since the 2000 Basel Fair, when the new, larger Calatrava celebrated its premiere under the designation “Reference 5107.” Inside a water-resistant case, sporting a screw-down crown, and equipped with a screw-in back fitted with a pane of transparent sapphire crystal, the newcomer immediately advanced to the status of the year’s most exciting newcomer. Another first for the big new Calatrava was its robust, high-quality, automatic caliber with a central rotor - the same caliber that we’d come to know and love inside the Nautilus. Earlier automatic versions of the Calatrava had housed

Patek Philippe’s Caliber 315 is the most impressive and most elaborate caliber in our test. Despite the high-class Gyromax balance with regulator screws, this caliber failed to deliver optimal performance in our running test.

Patek Philippe Calatrava

**Advantages**

- + Excellent movement
- + Superlative design
- + Screw-in back with pane of sapphire crystal
- + Ideal dimensions

**Disadvantages**

- Very expensive
- Ran slow in our running test



The pane of sapphire crystal in the solidly made, fully threaded, screw-in back invites the connoisseur to admire the interior of the Calatrava Grande Taille.

Patek Philippe’s extremely slim microrotor Caliber 240.

The new model debuted at a retail price of well over \$10,000. Despite its high price, the Calatrava Grande Taille immediately became an ardently sought collector’s item. Even many months after its debut, delivery delays of as much as a year continued to testify to the popularity of this very special watch model with its legendary and mellifluous name. A comparably glamorous effect simply isn’t produced by any of the Calatrava Grande Taille’s three competitors. With its extravagantly oval case, Au-

demars Piguet’s Millenary designed to revolutionize luxury watches in the new millennium much the way the Royal Oak did 28 years previously. Thus far, however, the Millenary hasn’t succeeded in changing the minds of Audemars Piguet’s rather conservative clientele. The model has remained an impressive but nonetheless marginal phenomenon.

Breguet’s *Classique Perpetual* belongs in the basic collection of any impassioned watch collector. It represents the concentrated horological legacy passed down by Abraham-Louis Breguet, the father of today’s watches. It was

the inventive Monsieur Breguet who used stylistic media such as channeled cases, blued *pomme* hands, and engine-turned, silver-plated gold dials as the prime ingredients in his long-lived recipe for a stylish, classic watch. Breguet's taste and his "handwriting" as a designer have continued to serve as examples for many more recent watches. Whether their names are Chronoswiss, Paul Picot, or Maurice Lacroix, all of them rely upon a stylistic vocabulary that was first articulated by Abraham-Louis Breguet. Marriage to the Nouvelle Lemania movement *manufacture* gave Breguet watches of the modern era access to individualistic movements that embody a very high standard of quality.

Vacheron Constantin, the world's oldest watch *manufacture*, was taken over by the Richemont Group in 1997. VC's post-takeover collection is more attractive than any that the firm had offered in the recent past. The new, sporty, and luxurious Overseas watch and the impressively opulent resurrection of the Chronomètre Royal testify to the creative vitality of the *manufacture* with the iconic Maltese Cross logo. The model we chose for this comparative test – the so-called "Doctor's Watch" with automatic movement – once again underscores the distinguished understatement that Vacheron Constantin's products embody more convincingly than any other brand among the great, traditional, Swiss manufacturers.

Audemars Piguet Millenary

### Advantages

- + Superior *manufacture* caliber
- + Elaborately crafted case
- + Refined folding clasp

### Disadvantages

- Mediocre performance in our running test
- Less than optimal legibility

**The beautiful screw-in back on the Millenary cannot fail to attract admiration.**



**Constructive aesthetics and beautiful decorations: Audemars Piguet's Caliber 2225 is an impressive automatic movement that was unbeaten in several categories.**



Four watches with four different movements: that's something quite rare in a *WatchTime* comparative test and a special attraction in its own right. After all, each of the four calibers in this exclusive quartet is a blue-blooded *manufacture* movement created in the rarefied environs of the watch world's most exclusive ateliers. The prize for 100% authenticity, however, can be awarded to only one of these four luxury watches: the Calatrava. This watch is the only one in the exclusive quartet that's built entirely in the house whose name it bears on its dial. Audemars Piguet orders the movements for its Millenary from Jaeger-LeCoultre, a neighbor in Vallée de Joux and a famed maker of movements and movement-blanks. Jaeger-LeCoultre's self-winding Caliber 889/1 with a central rotor serves as the foundation that Audemars Piguet modifies to create the AP Caliber 2225. The balance of the latter oscillates at a pace of 28,800 rather than

21,600 beats per hour. Not only does its balance tick faster, the 2225 also features certain qualitative enhancements and further refinements that distinguish it from the 889/1. The basic attributes of this slim, self-winding movement date back to the year 1967, and it still ranks among the most beautiful calibers ever produced. Its aesthetic construction, high-class fittings, and other admirable details qualify it as truly "state-of-the-art." Its special strong points include high torque and an efficient flow of energy which, thanks to its large, heavy and bi-directional rotor, is captured with scarcely any loss of power thanks to the reversing rocker gear system. Typical characteristics of this concept are the three reduction wheels, one of which is even ball-borne, beside the rotor bearing. With 33 jewels, the entire caliber underscores its ambitious construction philosophy, which might be summed up in the words "as good as humanly possible." The lavish decorations, which feature a variety of different patterns on the bridges and plates, round out the outstanding impression. The movement isn't extremely slim: its height is just a shade taller than the magical three-millimeter limit.

The Breguet Classique draws its motive force from a Nouvelle Lemania automatic caliber with unidirectional rotor winding. This *manufacture* took over the extra-slim Caliber 8815 in 1991 from ETA, which had never

produced it. Longines first marketed the 8815 in 1977 as the legendary double-barreled Caliber L 990. Two serially switched barrels are located side by side to dispense the power. Although the caliber also has a date display and a central "sweep" seconds-hand, the twin barrels made it possible for the caliber's designers to reduce its overall height to a record-breaking slenderness of just 2.95 millimeters. This innovative and slim item seemed destined to shine for Longines, but unfortunately its early versions suffered from growing pains. To make matters worse, its birth coincided with the heyday of the quartz boom. Empty coffers at Longines prevented the firm from investing in the fledgling caliber, and it was sold to Nouvelle Lemania in 1991, where it finally received a very thorough overhaul. Nowadays, the Caliber 8815 is an important item in the select spectrum of manufacture movements, but the cleverness of its construction earns it a special place in that exclusive group. A heavy, solid gold rotor adorned by hand with guilloché decorations winds the mainspring and doubles as the visual focal point of the lavishly ornamented caliber in our Breguet wristwatch. Lacking, however, is the sophisticated fine timing that would have been provided by a Breguet balance-spring. The second-hand on our tested watch didn't always run perfectly smoothly. Occasional disturbances in its rhythm may have been caused by lengthy storage or by too much play between the flanks of the teeth as the power was transferred along



**Masterful craftsmanship: the typical Breguet style continues onto the back of the case too.**

**Originally constructed by Longines, the Caliber 8815 was later refined by Lemania. Breguet gave it a gold rotor.**

Breguet Classique

**Advantages**

- + Excellent performance in our running test
- + Solid gold dial
- + Exquisite leather wristband
- + Wristband's cross-pieces are screwed

**Disadvantages**

- Pressure-fitted case back
- Diameter is smaller than currently fashionable
- The second-hand on our tested watch didn't run perfectly smoothly





**DATA PAGE**

**Patek Philippe Calatrava Grande Taille**

**Manufacturer:** Patek Philippe SA, CH-1211 Geneva

**Model:** Calatrava Grande Taille Automatic

**Reference number:** 5107 R-001

**Functions:** Displays the hours, minutes, seconds, and date (rapid switching and speedy adjustment).

**Movement:** Self-winding Patek Philippe Caliber 315/190 SC; central, ball-borne, 21-karat gold rotor winds the mainspring in one direction of rotation via click-wheel; diameter = 12 lignes (27.0 mm); height = 3.22 mm; 30 jewels; Gyro. max balance with flat balance-spring; 21,600 beats per hour; Geneva Quality Hallmark; 48-hour power reserve; 220 individual components; escape-wheel with endstone in chaton; Kif shock absorption; no stop-seconds function.

**Case:** 18-karat rose gold, tripartite case with fully threaded screw-in back and domed sapphire crystal in front; water-resistant to 25 meters; screw-down crown; flat pane of sapphire crystal in back.

**Wristband and clasp:** Hand-sewn crocodile-skin wristband with clasp made of 18-karat rose gold.

**Results of running test:** (deviations in seconds per 24 hours)

Dial up:	-6
Dial down:	-10
Crown up:	-6
Crown down:	0
Crown left:	-2
Greatest deviation of rate:	8
Average deviation:	-5
Average amplitude:	298°

**Dimensions and weight:**

Diameter = 37.5 mm.  
Height = 9.0 mm.  
Weight = 72.6 grams.

**Price:** \$11,900



**DATA PAGE**

**Audemars Piguet Millenary**

**Manufacturer:** Audemars Piguet SA, CH-1348 Le Brassus

**Model:** Millenary

**Reference number:** 14908 BA/0

**Functions:** Displays the hours, minutes, and seconds; rapid switching and rapid adjustment for the date display.

**Movement:** Self-winding AP Caliber 2225 based on a Jaeger-LeCoultre 889/1; diameter = 11 1/2 lignes (26 mm); height = 3.25 mm; 36 jewels; central, ball-borne rotor with 21-karat gold oscillating weight winds mainspring in both directions of rotation; bi-rotational winding occurs via a reversing rocker; flat balance-spring with fine adjustment via micrometer screws; Kif shock absorption; 28,800 beats per hour; 202 individual components; Glucydur balance; 38-hour power reserve; stop-seconds function.

**Case:** 18-karat yellow gold, tripartite case; six screws hold back in place; water-resistant to 30 meters; flat sapphire crystal; crown adorned with sapphire cabochon; dial made of solid sterling silver.

**Wristband and clasp:** Hand-sewn crocodile-skin wristband with high-gloss surface and massive folding clasp made of 18-karat yellow gold; clasp's shape recalls Audemars Piguet's logo.

**Results of running test:**

(deviations in seconds per 24 hours)

Dial up:	-4
Dial down:	-5
Crown up:	-6
Crown down:	-10
Crown left:	-4
Greatest deviation of rate:	6
Average deviation:	-6
Average amplitude:	302°

**Dimensions and weight:**

Diameter = 39 x 25 mm (oval)  
Height = 7.0 mm.  
Weight = 67.0 grams.

**Price:** \$10,700



**DATA PAGE**

**Breguet Classique**

**Manufacturer:** Breguet SA, CH-1344 L'Abbaye

**Model:** Classique Perpetual

**Reference number:** 5910

BA/15 984-1585 K

**Functions:** Displays the hours, minutes, seconds, and date (rapid switching and rapid adjustment).

**Movement:** Self-winding Breguet Caliber 591 based on a Nouvelle Lemania 8815; diameter = 11 1/2 lignes (26 mm); height = 2.95 mm; 25 jewels; central, ball-borne rotor winds main-spring in one direction of rotation; two side-by-side, serially arranged barrels; flat balance-spring; fine adjustment via micrometer screws; Kif shock absorption; 28,800 beats per hour; 188 individual components; Glucydur balance; 38-hour power reserve; massive gold rotor with handcrafted guilloche decoration; stop-seconds function.

**Case:** 18-karat yellow gold, tripartite case; pressure-fitted back; domed sapphire crystal; solid gold, silver-plated dial; water-resistant to 30 meters.

**Wristband and clasp:** Glossy, hand-sewn, crocodile-skin wristband; crocodile-skin also on the underside; the crosspiece between the lugs and the crosspiece on the solid gold case are both screwed.

**Results of running test:**

(deviations in seconds per 24 hours)

Dial up:	+4
Dial down:	+2
Crown up:	+2
Crown down:	+4
Crown left:	+2
Greatest deviation of rate:	2
Average deviation:	+3
Average amplitude:	282°

**Dimensions and weight:**

Diameter = 34.5 mm  
Height = 7.8 mm.  
Weight = 52.2 grams.

**Price:** \$12,500



**DATA PAGE**

**Vacheron Constantin "Doctor's Watch"**

**Manufacturer:** Vacheron Constantin SA, CH-1211 Geneva

**Model:** "Doctor's Watch"

Automatic

**Reference number:**

42002/000J-8760

**Functions:** Hours, minutes, seconds, and date (rapid switching and rapid adjustment).

**Movement:** Self-winding Vacheron Constantin Caliber 1312 based on a Girard-Perregaux 3100; diameter = 11 1/2 lignes (26 mm); height = 2.98 mm; 27 jewels; central, ball-borne rotor has a heavy metal oscillating weight and winds the mainspring in one direction of rotation; Glucydur balance with flat balance-spring; Triois fine adjustment; Kif shock absorption; 50-hour power reserve; 192 individual components; stop-seconds function.

**Case:** 18-karat yellow gold, tripartite case; domed sapphire crystal; pressure-fitted back; water-resistant to 30 meters.

**Wristband and clasp:** Matte, hand-sewn, crocodile-skin wristband with 18-karat yellow gold clasp.

**Results of running test:**

(deviations in seconds per 24 hours)

Dial up:	+6
Dial down:	+10
Crown left:	+6
Crown up:	+10
Crown down:	+6
Greatest deviation of rate:	4
Average deviation:	+8

**Dimensions and weight:**

Diameter = 35.0 mm  
Height = 8.5 mm.  
Weight = 46.3 grams.

**Price:** \$8,100

the gear-train from the third wheel to the fourth wheel. But this minor problem in the train didn't prevent the watch from delivering one of the best performances ever recorded in a *WatchTime* running test. This sterling performance was entirely in keeping with the history of a caliber that broke records for slenderness when it first appeared in 1977.

Vacheron Constantin is active in the field of three-handed automatic wristwatches thanks to the calibers that it purchases from Jaeger-LeCoultre and, since 1998, the products it orders from Girard-Perregaux. Not long ago, this latter *manufacture* once again proved its merits with the launch of the Caliber 3000 - a newly developed, extremely slender, self-winding movement that can support modular expansions. Without resorting to unorthodox tactics,

### Abraham-Louis Breguet's stylistic vocabulary included channeled cases, blued *pomme* hands, and engine-turned, silver-plated gold dials.

Girard-Perregaux eliminated the need for reversing rockers by opting for a unidirectional rotor and was thus able to offer this progressive caliber in a filigreed 101/2-ligne version. A one-ligne larger version, which goes by the name "Caliber 3100," is integrated within the Vacheron Constantin "Doctor's Watch," where it's designated by the name "Caliber 1312."

Simple unidirectional winding was also selected as the method of choice by Patek Philippe for its central rotor Caliber 315 SC, but in all other respects, Patek pulled out all the stops. The reward for their labors is the prestigious Geneva Seal, reserved only for masterpieces of mechanical horology. The physical hallmark itself appears as a tiny stamp that's punched into the escape-wheel bridge. Patek Philippe has traditionally used a valuable Gyromax balance fitted with regulator screws on the inner side of its rim. Compared to conventional regulating systems with micrometer screws such as are used by the competitors in this test, the Gyromax principle facilitates an extremely precise fine adjustment without exerting a one-sided effect on the balance-

spring. The Caliber 315 SC is an aesthetic pleasure: every possibility for refinement has been exercised here. For example, the solid gold rotor is adorned with a wreath of circular grainings around its pivot point; the endstone above the escape-wheel is fitted into a setting; all engravings are filled with gold; all screw heads have been polished; and the diversity of decorative patterns on the bridges, cocks, and plates is positively breathtaking. All of these details combine to earn the Calatrava first place in our test's crucial "movement" category, where it scored one point more than the Millenary, our silver medallist. Bronze went to the Breguet Classique. The inventive, doubled-barreled construction of the Breguet movement earned it one point more than was awarded to the Caliber 1312 inside Vacheron Constantin's "Doctor's Watch."

The cases of these prestigious golden watches all embody very high standards of manufacturing quality. It's not the basic concept, but rather the details and embellishments that determine the degree of elaborateness of each particular housing. The case from Breguet really distinguishes itself in this category, where it earned itself a perfect score. Even the Calatrava can't do things better in this respect, although it can do things differently. Breguet offers details like the channeling on the middle piece of the case, engine turning on the solid gold dial, and screwed cross-pieces on the leather wristband, which more than compensate for the peccadillo of its pressure-fitted back. The Breguet wristband, which even sports crocodile-skin on its underside, is nothing short of superlative. As far as the "case" and "wristband" categories go, the Calatrava Grande Taille pays homage to the overall artwork rather than to individual details. Its generous dimensions communicate a sense of impressive mass and commanding authority. The hands and indices are big and bold without being overbearing. Everything forms itself irresistibly and organically. If anything can be criticized at all, then you might wonder whether this new Calatrava hasn't overstepped the dress-watch boundary and strayed into sports watch territory. On the other hand, Patek Philippe's designers have treaded this narrow divide with exquisite surefootedness, and although the crown flanks might

offend purists, the overall impression is very fine indeed.

So much formal magic simply cannot be mustered by the other competitors. The Milenary tries to set standards, but falls victim to its own nonconformity, which it bears courageously. The watch remains a loveable and, thanks to its caliber, desirable alternative for individualists. Vacheron Constantin's contestant cultivates distinguished understatement to a greater degree than all other watches in this class. If there's any way to wear \$8,100 on your wrist more inconspicuously, we haven't discovered it yet. The Vacheron Constantin "Doctor's Watch" is a perfect example of the fact that it's not a flashy exterior but a solidly built interior that matters most. This is a confident wristwatch, strong in character, free from arrogance or self-indulgence, and the perfect companion for the man who recognizes such traits in himself. The "Doctor's Watch" belongs only to itself and its owner. It's not a watch that incites envy or coveting, and it's so understated that

cerned, the matte crocodile-skin wristband on the Vacheron Constantin model is arguably the most beautiful of the four, closely followed by the Patek Philippe wristband, which has very large reptilian scales. Aficionados generally agree that larger scales are prettier than smaller ones. Breguet and Audemars Piguet each apply a coat of lacquer to their wristbands, giving them a somewhat antiquated look. The Breguet band wears its mink as a lining too (i.e. it also has crocodile-skin on its underside). And the Vacheron Constantin strap sports an artful clasp that's shaped like the firm's logo.

**Vacheron Constantin's contender offers only a pressure-fitted, unembellished back.**



Vacheron Constantin "Doctor's Watch"

**Advantages**

- + The "understatement wristwatch" par excellence
- + Essentialist design
- + Good results in our running test

**Disadvantages**

- Pressure-fitted case back
- Winding-crown is rather small

**Vacheron Constantin's "Doctor's Watch" is a confident piece that's free from arrogance or self-indulgence. It's the perfect companion for the man who recognizes such traits in himself.**

you don't even need to hide it in your pocket if you happen to find yourself stumbling through a rough 'hood in the wee hours.

Leather wristbands are important contributors to the overall appearance of each of these gold watches. None of the four tested bands need fear comparison, but there are subtle differences among them. From the point of view of craftsmanship, we find a duo of cut bands (from Patek Philippe and Vacheron Constantin) squaring off against a pair of fully upholstered bands in which the upper leather is wrapped around the lining. These latter wristbands are reputed to provide greater longevity and embody more perfect workmanship than mere cut bands. Perhaps this explains why Breguet and Audemars Piguet opted for the wrap-around version. As far as appearances are con-

**This extra-flat construction, developed by Girard-Perregaux, will not impress an aficionado who appreciates extra-special finesse.**





**TEST RESULTS**

**Patek Philippe Calatrava Grande Taille**

**Wristband and clasp (max. 10 points):** 9

Select crocodile-skin wristband, but merely cut rather than fully upholstered for greater longevity.

**Operation (5):** 4

Very large screw-down crown is uncommonly easy to grasp and clicks precisely into its notches, but unfortunately doesn't support a stop-seconds function.

**Case (10):** 10

Massive and elegant in its craftsmanship and equipped with a solid, screw-in back, it practically feels like a sports watch case.

**Design (15):** 15

No superfluties; dynamically large size; unmistakably expressive; this watch translates the Calatrava's traditional formal idiom into a contemporary design.

**Legibility (5):** 5

Distinctive Dauphin hands and clearly accentuated indices ensure optimal legibility.

**Wearing comfort (10):** 8

This large, heavy watch isn't quite as comfortable as its competitors; you are more aware of its presence on your wrist.

**Movement (20):** 20

The construction is exemplary; the finishing is excellent; this caliber sets standards in its class.

**Results of running test (10):** 7

The performance in the running test didn't keep the promise implicit in a caliber that's been crafted in accord with such high standards.

**Overall value (15):** 13

It's not even the most expensive watch in our test, and it will maintain its value for years to come. It embodies superlative achievements in nearly all of the rated categories.

**Total:** 88 points ★★★★★



**TEST RESULTS**

**Audemars Piguet Millenary**

**Wristband and clasp (max. 10 points):** 9

Valuable crocodile-skin wristband with functional, elaborately designed folding clasp.

**Operation (5):** 4

Rather small crown is only moderately easy to grasp, but it clicks precisely into place and supports a stop-seconds function.

**Case (10):** 9

Elaborately crafted case; six screws are fitted into threaded holes drilled into the star-shaped movement-holder ring.

**Design (15):** 12

Unusual design exerts an effect that takes some getting used to; elegant proportions.

**Legibility (5):** 3

The decorations on the dial, which recall the lines of latitude and longitude on a polar-projection world map, detract from the watch's legibility.

**Wearing comfort (10):** 9

The idiosyncratic oval shape conforms very well with the anatomy of the wearer's wrist.

**Movement (20):** 16

State-of-the-art manufacture caliber with truly brilliant construction.

**Results of running test (10):** 7

The final regulation could have been better; except for that minor shortcoming, the results were quite good.

**Overall value (15):** 13

Overall value is high thanks to the excellent movement, but resale could be problematic because of the unusual case, which takes some getting used to.

**Total:** 82 points ★★★★★



**TEST RESULTS**

**Breguet Classique**

**Wristband and clasp (max. 10 points):** 10

Finest quality crocodile-skin, fully upholstered, with screwed crosspieces.

**Operation (5):** 3

Small crown doesn't click perfectly into place, but nonetheless offers a stop-seconds function.

**Case (10):** 10

Best materials paired with high standard of craftsmanship and loving attention to details.

**Design (15):** 13

Classical Breguet design serves as an example for the entire watch-making guild; the case could have been a bit larger.

**Legibility (5):** 5

Blued steel hands against the background of a silver dial yield a very highly contrasting dial.

**Wearing comfort (10):** 9

The small, slim case disappears under your cuff and can scarcely be felt at all on the wrist.

**Movement (20):** 15

Extra-slim and with the constructive finesse of twin barrels, Breguet dots the "I" on this caliber by giving it its final polishing and embellishment.

**Results of running test (10):** 9

The results are so good that there's scarcely any room left for further improvement.

**Overall value (15):** 12

Although it's the most expensive watch in our test, it will always stay stylish and should command decent resale value.

**Total:** 86 points ★★★★★



**TEST RESULTS**

**Vacheron Constantin "Doctor's Watch"**

**Wristband and clasp (max. 10 points):** 9

Fine, matte crocodile-skin wristband in a cut-band version.

**Operation (5):** 4

Relatively small crown clicks exactly into place and controls a stop-seconds function.

**Case (10):** 8

Solid and elaborately crafted tripartite case with pressure-fitted back.

**Design (15):** 13

Sleekly understated design without strongly individualistic features.

**Legibility (5):** 5

Very good legibility thanks to dial's high-contrast design.

**Wearing comfort (10):** 9

Very comfortable on the wrist thanks to supple leather band and diminutively sized case.

**Movement (20):** 14

Extra-flat, finely decorated, manufacture movement embodies modern concepts; it was designed and manufactured by Girard-Perregaux.

**Results of running test (10):** 8

Very good results in all positions; optimal regulation could improve the performance still further.

**Overall value (15):** 11

The "understatement" factor is inestimably important; more favorably priced than the other three competitors; acceptable cost-benefit ratio.

**Total:** 81 points ★★★★★

The crowns and the sides of the cases: all four of these noble wristwatches exhibit a refined elegance.

