



Robb Report

# WATCHES + JEWELRY

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The watchmakers and jewelers on this year's Best of the Best list are renowned for delivering

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innovation and creativity in balance with functionality and a keen sense of purpose. Driven by curiosity and a desire to challenge conventional ideas, these designers and brands have forged dynamic new creations over the past year that will undoubtedly stand the test of time.

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**JILL NEWMAN**

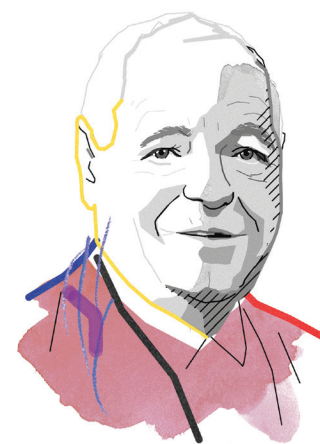
STYLE EDITOR



The latest entry in F.P. Journe's Line-Sport collection, the Chronographe Monopoussoir Rattrapante emphasizes elegant design with the addition of a multilevel dial, a scaled bezel, and case options in red gold, platinum, and titanium. The strongest feature is the rattrapante chronograph movement, modified from the one-of-a-kind piece that the brand's founder and head watchmaker, François-Paul Journe, produced for 2017's Only Watch auction. Rather than putting his idiosyncratic twist on the complication's function, Journe seems to have preferred emulating some of the fondly remembered chronograph movements of the past in the looping levers and flowing bridges seen on this caliber. (from \$61,100) [fpjourne.com](http://fpjourne.com) -J.D.M.



SPORTS WATCH  
F.P. Journe  
Chronographe Monopoussoir Rattrapante



## PHILIPPE STERN

The effects of the visionary's leadership are felt well beyond the walls of Patek Philippe.

Much of the credit for how Patek Philippe's position grew and solidified during the modern era must be given to the Geneva-based company's former president, Philippe Stern. His leadership came at a pivotal time. After guiding Patek Philippe through the quartz crisis of the 1970s and early '80s that almost destroyed the Swiss watch industry, Stern thoroughly modernized the company, creating a new model for luxury mechanical watchmaking that has been emulated across the sector.

Stern's unveiling of the Calibre 89 at the company's 150th anniversary in 1989 was the public's first glimpse of that vision. The most complicated mechanical watch in the world at the time, it represented a codification of venerable watchmaking techniques that would increasingly be gathered under the company's roof and executed with modern, computer-assisted manufacturing techniques. A growing body of collectors—wowed by spectacular auctions and Stern's subtle promotion of exotic complicated and artisanally decorated watches—fed a voracious demand for the company's pieces that has continued as steadily as any of its movements. A steady drumbeat of innovative models, as well as new facilities and capacities, means that as much as other companies emulate Patek Philippe, they still struggle to keep up. [patek.com](http://patek.com) -J.D.M.

ILLUSTRATION BY PADDY MILLS; PATEK PHILIPPE: JEAN-DANIEL MEYER



## COMPLICATED WATCH Patek Philippe Reference 5531R World Time Minute Repeater

Patek Philippe has added a multitude of complications to its prized minute repeaters over the years, but it was the recent addition of a world-time function that precipitated the most substantial revision of the brand's automatic repeater caliber in a quarter century. Changing the home time on the Reference 5531R—now available in the company's regular but very limited production of repeaters—interfaces directly with a movable hour snail in the mechanism, which keeps the repeater function in sync with the local time rather than the home time. A new gong arrangement attached directly to the case chimes the hour, quarters, and minutes in a slightly different but equally pleasing tone from previous models. (approximately \$500,000) [patek.com](http://patek.com) -J.D.M.