

# WATCH

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THE WATCH MAGAZINE REDEFINED

**power** Four spring barrels provide extraordinary power reserve in this new manufacture movement.

**technique** Impeccable finishing and an open tourbillon display the maker's legendary know-how.



VACHERON CONSTANTIN PATRIMONY  
TRADITIONNELLE 14-DAY TOURBILLON

**heritage** Elements of the dial take inspiration from historical Vacheron-Constantin pocket watches.

88 RUE DU RHONE  
BACKES & STRAUSS  
BALL  
BELL & ROSS  
BLANCPAIN  
BREGUET  
BREMONT  
CARL F. BUCHERER  
CLERC  
CVSTOS  
DIOR  
LOUIS ERARD  
F.P. JOURNE  
FORTIS  
FRANCK MULLER  
GERCÉ  
GEVRIL  
GIO MONACO  
GIULIANO MAZZUOLI  
GRAHAM LONDON  
GRIEB & BENZINGER  
GUCCI  
HAMILTON  
IWC SCHAFFHAUSEN  
JACOB & CO.  
JAEGER-LECOULTRE  
KORLOFF  
LUMINOX  
MAURICE LACROIX  
MECCANICHE VELOCI  
MILUS  
MONTBLANC  
MOTOART  
MÜHLE GLASHÜTTE  
ORBITA  
PANERAI  
PATEK PHILIPPE  
PERRELET  
PIAGET  
PIERRE KUNZ  
RALPH LAUREN  
ROGER DUBUIS  
SEIKO  
SISU  
TAG HEUER  
ULYSSE NARDIN  
UNDERWOOD LONDON  
VACHERON CONSTANTIN  
VAN CLEEF & ARPELS  
WEMPE



Maltese cross-shaped  
tourbillon carriage of the hand-  
finished manufacture Caliber 2260

# TRUE CLASSIC

THE STORIED PAST AND **VIBRANT FUTURE OF VACHERON**  
**CONSTANTIN** CAPTURED IN A NEW TOURBILLON BY KEITH W. STRANDBERG

With “classical” and “understated” trending as watch styles recently, many brands have scrambled to produce watches that fit the bill. Vacheron Constantin, however, has been crafting authentically classic timepieces for more than 250 years. Reinforcing its legacy, Vacheron Constantin this year introduced the Patrimony Traditionnelle 14-day Tourbillon, a combination of traditional high watchmaking and, at the same time, a distinctly modern approach to horology. Notably, this watch is the first from Vacheron Constantin to comply with the new Geneva Seal requirements, signaling the future for the Geneva-based high watchmaking manufacture.





"I REMEMBER MY GRANDFATHER, WHO WAS A GREAT WATCHMAKER, TALKING TO ME ABOUT THE TOURBILLON WITH RESPECT IN HIS VOICE."

**Christian Selmoni**  
artistic director,  
Vacheron Constantin

#### IMPORTANCE OF PATRIMONY

Making a tourbillon is nothing new for Vacheron Constantin, and, today, more companies are making tourbillons than at any other time in the history of watchmaking. So, it wouldn't make sense for the new Patrimony Traditionnelle 14-day Tourbillon to be "just" a tourbillon.

"If we look at the market for tourbillon watches, we see 150 or more companies that make tourbillons," says Christian Selmoni, artistic director, Vacheron Constantin. "The tourbillon is a mythical complication that was extremely difficult to build before the computer era. I remember my grandfather, who was a great watchmaker, talking to me about the tourbillon with respect in his voice. Of course, now, the tourbillon is much easier to design and manufacture than it was 100 years ago. So, for this watch, we wanted to introduce a classical, round tourbillon but with something different, and we decided to add a very long power reserve."

The new time-piece uses a new manufacture movement with four spring barrels, which produce 14 days (approximately 336 hours) of power reserve. Mounted in coupled pairs, the barrels unwind simultaneously, only four times as slowly as a single barrel would. Together, their total spring length exceeds 2 meters—all packed into a movement of just 29.1 mm in diameter—and this controlled release of energy results in greater stability in timekeeping. "This is a high-end tourbillon; it contains a great deal of watchmaking know-how inside," Selmoni continues. "The four barrels are giving energy at the same time. This is a system that offers better regularity for torque in the movement. And because this is a Vacheron Constantin tourbillon, the finishing is impeccable. We put a lot of effort into the hand-finishing, because this is the ultimate in high-end watchmaking. Everything is packed into a very pure, simple, elegant design."



The 42-mm Patrimony Traditionnelle 14-day Tourbillon in 5N rose gold with alligator strap



#### HIGH CALIBER

Vacheron Constantin's latest tourbillon uses the maker's new Caliber 2260. Developed and manufactured by Vacheron Constantin, this 13-line caliber comprises 231 parts. Its architecture features two large bridges (instead of three, as in earlier Vacheron Constantin tourbillons). The larger bridge surfaces allow lavish finishing, including Côtes de Genève engraving.

The tourbillon carriage is inspired by the brand's signature Maltese cross and provides a splendid showcase for the exceptional level of finishing of each movement part, including a number of interior angles, all naturally hand-beveled. The rounding off of the tourbillon bar alone requires more than 11 hours of manual craftsmanship.

#### SEAL OF QUALITY

In the past, the Geneva Seal, also known as the Geneva Hallmark, was primarily a finishing standard, the flaw in the certification being that, under the old regime, a non-functioning watch could theoretically qualify to receive the Geneva Seal. Well, no more. The Geneva Seal has made some significant changes, adding precision testing, similar to that of the COSC, although more demanding.

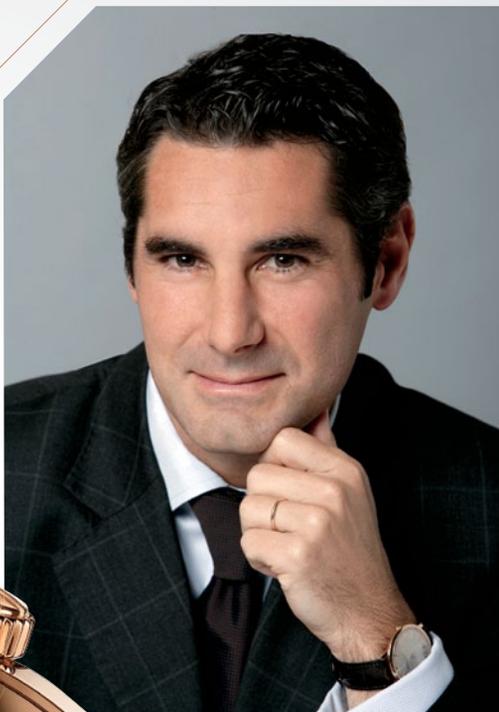
"For us, the Geneva Hallmark is something important," says Selmoni. "This label was created 126 years ago to protect the name of Geneva. Because the criteria are so demanding, the Geneva Seal gives a lot of credit to our watchmaking. This is a third-party certification, so it gives us a lot of credibility. Also, it's great that the Seal now

covers the entire watch, including a precision standard."

For watch lovers, the new Geneva Seal encompasses it all—precision, attention to detail and the highest level of hand-finishing. "The Geneva Seal is crucial for customers," says Hugues de Pins, president of Vacheron Constantin North America. "Everyone says 'we are Swiss made,' but the meaning of Swiss made can be unclear. We have been committed since the beginning of the Geneva Seal, and we have always respected the standards. We are able to explain what the criteria for the Geneva Seal are, and why it is more and more challenging to be certified. In the end, the Geneva Seal is a very strong argument ensuring exceptional quality and the highest level of traditional hand-finishing for the customer."

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**Hugues de Pins**  
president of Vacheron  
Constantin North America



#### **SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

Currently, about 80 percent of Vacheron Constantin watches are equipped with in-house movements (for the remaining roughly 20 percent, in a few models, the maker currently uses Jaeger-LeCoultre and Frédéric Piguet movements), but the goal is for 100 percent of Vacheron Constantin's production to use in-house movements and for each watch to earn Geneva Seal status.

As a classically styled tourbillon in the grandest tradition of high horology, the new Patrimony Traditionnelle 14-day Tourbillon with its manufacture movement and extraordinary power reserve ushers in the new era and symbolizes both the storied past and the vibrant future of Vacheron Constantin.

[vacheron-constantin.com](http://vacheron-constantin.com)

#### **POWER TO SPARE**

Inspired by historical pocket watches from Vacheron Constantin's past, the silver-toned opaline dial of the Patrimony Traditionnelle 14-day Tourbillon places the power reserve indicator at 12. The 280° segment is designed for enhanced legibility, so the state of wind is discernible at a glance.