

RIGHT ON TIME

Meet the five watchmakers who have the cognoscenti lining up.

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Tucked away in workshops from Dresden, Germany, to the Isle of Man are a few master horologists who are creating sought-after timepieces. These tiny enterprises produce a limited number of watches each year and command rabid devotion among collectors who relish a rare luxury: personally meeting their watchmaker. From left, five examples of their handiwork. For details see Sources, page 126.

LANG & HEYNE Founded by fifth-generation watchmaker Marco Lang, 44, this Dresden-based atelier makes fewer than 40 watches a year. Lang's designs often incorporate traditional German elements, as with the bleached silver dial of this Moritz von Sachsen model, which also tracks the earth's declination (the angle of the equator in relation to the sun).

VOUTILAINEN Born in Finland, Kari Voutilainen, 52, works in tiny Môtiers, Switzerland. He spent more than a decade restoring rare timepieces and teaching before launching his own company in 2002. Now he specializes in intricately decorated dials and teardrop-shaped lugs, as seen on this Vingt-8 watch.

ANDREAS STREHLER Eminent Swiss watchmaker Strehler, 44, makes only 10 timepieces each year. He has consulted for companies including Harry Winston, but his own work attests to his rebellious streak: Take the playful design of this Cocon watch, which allows a glimpse of his innovative mechanics.

R. W. SMITH Clients often wait three years for a watch designed by Roger Smith, 44, in his Isle of Man studio. His elegantly understated pieces, including this platinum Series 2 watch, often feature traditional English workmanship, such as lush engraving and raised Roman numerals.

GREUBEL FORSEY Architectural elements are the hallmark of Greubel Forsey, a Swiss-based company co-founded by French watchmaker Robert Greubel, 55, and Briton Stephen Forsey, 48. This GMT Black watch showcases their flair for dramatic features, such as a titanium globe and an inclined tourbillon. •