



A Roger W Smith Series 2 watch

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Winners of the Walpole Awards 2015 are announced

Britain's leading horologist and Victoria Beckham are amongst the winners of the long-standing ceremony this year

BY STEPHEN DOIG

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It's a long way from the Isle of Man to Park Lane, but it was a journey undertaken by horologist [Roger W Smith](#) for the [Walpole Awards](#) at the Dorchester hotel last night as he was awarded "Best British Luxury Craftsmanship" for his entirely British-made timepieces, which have carved a place for the UK in the international timepiece arena.

And it may only be a year since [Victoria Beckham](#) launched her standalone store on London's Dover Street, but with fashion credentials firmly sealed, she was awarded "British Luxury Brand of the Year" during the evening. The ceremony, founded in 1990 as a way to celebrate British-made excellence across the mediums of fashion, design, jewellery and fine watches, hospitality and the arts, has gone on to act as an industry standard bearer for all things luxury, with previous winners including Burberry, the Royal Shakespeare Company and Bentley.



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Of her win, Beckham said: "for my brand to be recognised amongst such great talent this evening makes me incredibly proud. British luxury has a global reputation for its quality, design, craftsmanship and creativity and I'm delighted to have received the award".

This year the judging panel, made up of CEO Michelle Emmerson alongside Michael Ward, MD of Harrods, Browns founder Joan Burstein and Rolls-Royce's Richard Carter, awarded Emilia Wickstead "Best New British Luxury Brand" while the Serpentine's outgoing co-director Julia Peyton-Jones walked away with the prize for "Leading Light".

Other winners include Pippa Small for "Most Socially Responsible British Luxury Brand", Goodwood for "Best British Luxury Experience", Valentino for "Best International Luxury Brand" and the striking ceramic poppy exhibition at the Tower of London, Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red, for "Best British Cultural & Creative Innovation". Charlotte Olympia Dellal, founder of her namesake women's accessories brand, was also anointed "British Brand Ambassador", a category making its debut this year.

It's a particularly fitting time to raise a glass to British luxury prowess; since 2013 the luxury goods market in the UK has risen 12.1 percent year on year, with the industry now worth over £32.2 billion. And a time when British watch brands are making their presence felt across the world, with the likes of Schofield and Hoptroff nudging into territory so firmly associated with Switzerland, it's heartening to see one of British watch craft's most enduring names be honoured.

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