CHRONOGRAPHS WITH CLASS

Inspired by active lifestyles, Bentley's newest timepieces demonstrate the company's heritage, innovation and impeccable technical skills **LL BUREAU**

he watch brand Bentley was established in 1948, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, Switzerland. Steeped in the history of Swiss horology, the town is reputed for being the cradle of modern watch making. In the early 90s, Bentley evolved to become Bentley Luxury Group, and expanded its product portfolio to include fashion and lifestyle accessories. The company adopted the brand motto, "Be In Control."

The watch division is principally engaged in designing, watchmaking and distributing watches and accessories. Bentley watches are the flagship products managed by the group, following traditional Swiss watchmaking techniques and innovation in design. Bentley watches are recognised by enthusiasts as contemporary examples of precision craft, with each luxurious timepiece achieving a fine balance between tradition and modernity.

For Baselworld 2014, Bentley plans to launch three new collections, namely: Bourbon Date Display 42mm, Solstice Chronograph and Sea Captain Chronograph.

SOI STICE CHRONOGRAPH

Following the successful relaunch of the Solstice Collection in an entirely new case design at Baselworld 2013, Bentley adds a new chronograph model into the 2014 Solstice Collection. The cushion-shaped Solstice model reflects the Bentley designer's artful interpretation of light and darkness; the original design concept was inspired by the winter solstice occurring over the mountain peak of Monte Rosa, Switzerland.

Solstice chronograph models all feature integrated chronograph pushers and lock-down screw crown enriched with the 'B' logo. The new model provides an extra large subsecond dial at the 6 O'clock position, and chronograph functions include 30-second counter with retrograde; the second counter sweeps from 9 to 3 O'clock position with clear timing markers, and minute counter and hour counter are indicated with beveled dial elements made from stainless steel. The models are attributed with two dial colours, white and black, with woven fibre patterns accredited to the sporty nature of the collection.



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BOURBON DATE DISPLAY 42 MM

Bentley welcomes a new model with large date display into the 2014 Bourbon Collection of fine watches. Originally launched in 1996, the Bourbon Collection was inspired by royal court cultures, and has since exuded a sense of elegance and intricacy through its precise construction, premium details and authentic craftsmanship.

The new timepiece is conceived with an extra large date display window at the 12 O'clock position, the concise dial design centres around a stylised 'B' logo with corrugated fan blade curves spiralling out towards the diamond encrusted hour markers. Sapphire glass domes over the three-hander dial face in black or white, are fitted in the brushed stainless steel bezel with tapered edge. The genuine leather straps are offered in two colour options, including black, brown, and a special perforated option.

SEA CAPTAIN CHRONOGRAPH

This particular model lineup of Bentley's Sea Captain has been described by Bentley as the first foray into a class of watches designed specifically for dive and water sport enthusiasts.

Sea Captain's core design, while paying tribute to other dive watch legends from Switzerland, infuses it with remarkable Bentley watchmaking expertise and unprecedented material advancements. The new models showcase a distinct sporty elegance and have been applauded as a great addition to the Bentley family.

The Sea Captain watches are housed in stainless steel cases; the casing is engineered from ground up to accommodate the external hi-tech ceramic bezel that turns uni-directionally, elapsed dive timer markings made of ceramic are engraved onto the bezels, displayed in intervals of 20s. Five striking dial colours are available – silver, blue, black, brown and two-tone gold and black. The dials have wave patterns discreetly imprinted on the surface and are inspired by ocean waves and a sunny sky, and as standard equipment, the date aperture is set at the 3 o'clock position. With sapphire crystal glass comprising nine layers of anti-reflective treatment domes over the meticulously finished dial, the glass virtually eliminates any surface glare and ensures protection in inclement conditions. The watches are also equipped with triple lock screw down crown, and as described by Bentley, the watches are seaworthy up to 100 m in depth.

