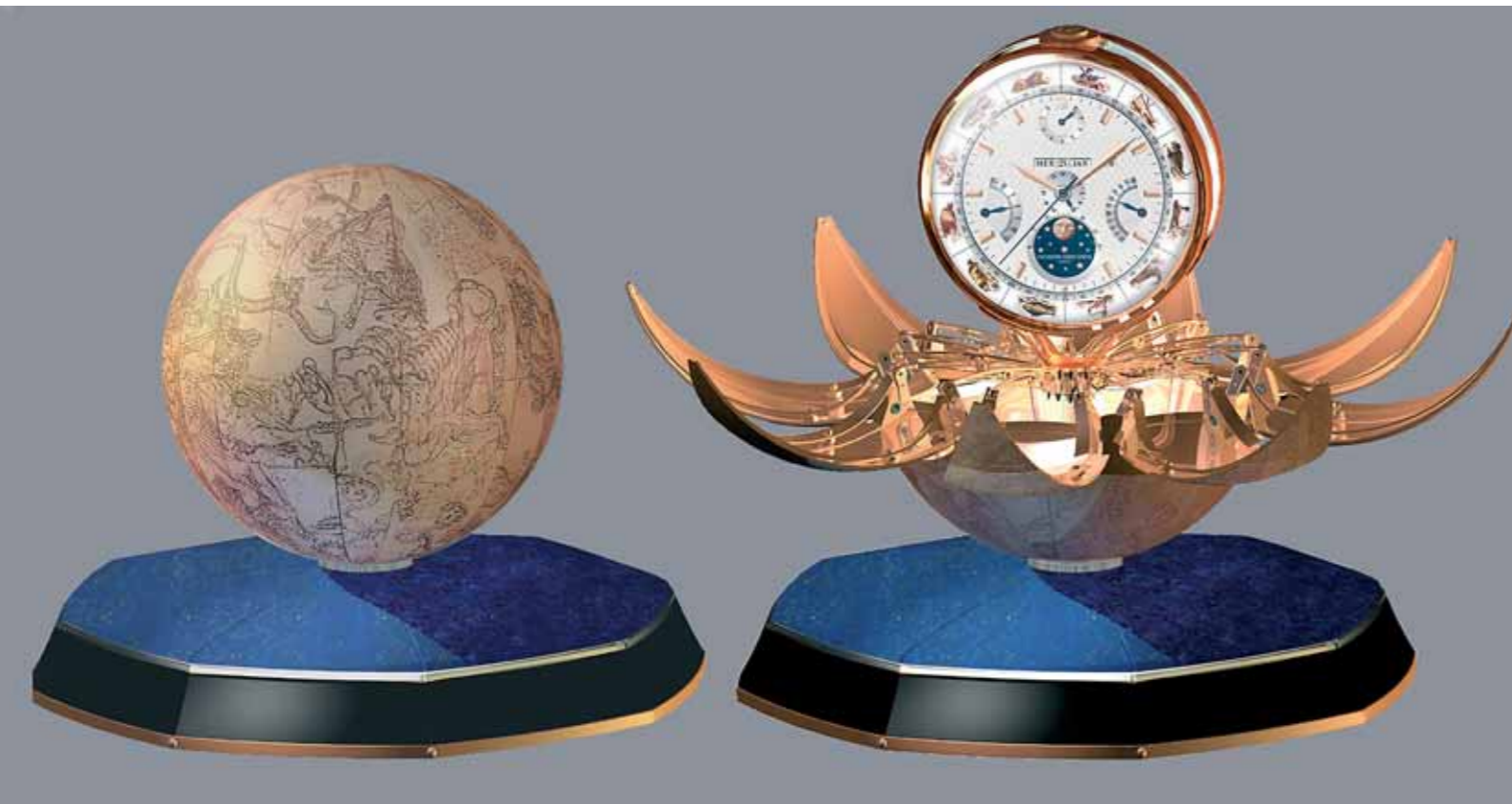


Founded in 1755, VACHERON CONSTANTIN marks 250 Years with Seven Limited Editions

Many watch companies claim to be older, but none have such a period of continuous production. The anniversary pieces revitalize traditional skills and advance contemporary technology



A unique piece, 'L'Esprit des Cabinotiers', has a 220mm, 2kg, gold sphere engraved with the constellations in the positions estimated in the night sky over Geneva on September 17th, 1755, the earliest documented date associated with VACHERON CONSTANTIN. On demand, a clockwork motor in the Lapis Lazuli base opens the sphere and a telescopic sapphire cylinder elevates the hidden sapphire-cased, quarter-striking, double dial clock which is based on a V-C pocket watch movement from 1934. It features perpetual and astronomical calendar, moon phase, equation of time, power reserve and shows dead-beat seconds and temperature. This, and one example from each of the other limited edition pieces, will be sold by ANTIQUORUM at a special V-C Anniversary Auction in Geneva on April 3rd. The sphere took 4 months to engrave.



The 'St Gervais' tourbillon is named after the old watchmaking area of Geneva on the north bank of the Rhône. Four spring barrels, in two superimposed pairs, provide the movement with a 250hr power reserve. Indeed the 18000vph balance amplitude is said to be maintained for 275 hours. The reserve indication is split between two sectors. The silvered gold dial is individually engine turned. The Rhodium-plated gold hands are inspired by a V-C watch from 1926. The case follows the design of all the anniversary watches and all 55 in the limited edition are 950 platinum. CHF 4-500,000.



'Tour de L'Île' is named after the location of the original V-C workshops. With 16 complications it is said to be the world's most complex wristwatch. It is a double faced tourbillon with minute-repeat. The engine turned, silvered-gold dial is in a different pattern for each of the limited edition of 7. As a privilege granted to V-C in its anniversary year the Geneva seal, usually confined to the movement, is displayed on the dial. On the front there is moonphase, together with the state of wind of the repeat mechanism, movement power reserve (58hr), and 24-hr dial. The back shows a perpetual calendar with day, date, month and leap year, and equation of time. Sunrise and sunset and a sky map are shown for the latitude of Geneva. The repeat is wound by turning the bezel, which is more positive than moving a slide. Price? Around €1,000,000.

The series 'Métiers D'Art' represents the four seasons and follows V-C's long tradition of artistic creativity. Apollo in his chariot, finely sculptured in gold, passes across the Earth between night and day in Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. The latter's frosty scene augmented with a sprinkling of diamonds. The hour, minute, day and date are displayed in dial apertures. These watches are only available in sets of four (CHF350,000 the set) and only 12 sets will be made.

The 'Jubilee' has a new 28,800vph cal 2475 self-winding movement with a 40hr power reserve. Dials are individually cut by CNC. Simple day, date calendar and power reserve indication. A limited edition of 500 in each of white, yellow, and rose gold and 250 in platinum. CHF30-50,000.