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CAPTIONS HISTORICAL WATCHES

SAVONNETTE POCKET WATCH CALIBRE JONES, PATTERN R (1874)

Calibre Jones 19''' pattern R, inscribed with "International Co. New York · Hand wound · 18 ct. red gold case

While his high quality movements were manufactured since 1868 in Schaffhausen, IWC founder Florentine A. Jones initially only sold his watches exclusively in the USA and also designated the headquarters of the International Watch Company in New York, rather than Schaffhausen, as can be seen in a series of watches from that period.

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SAVONNETTE POCKET WATCH PALLWEBER (1886)

Calibre Pallweber 19‴ · Hand-wound · silver case

On 17th June 1884, the deal between Johann Rauschenbach and the Salzburg watchmaker Joseph Pallweber is complete; IWC secures the rights to the Pallweber system and assembles the first ‚digital watches' in the history of IWC. These show time as a sequence of numbers. When full minutes and hours are reached, the numbers move up by one unit. Only the seconds are still displayed with a hand.

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LEPINE POCKET WATCH (1932)

Caliber 71, 19‴, H6 · Hand-wound · silver case

Starting in 1904, the IWC Caliber 71 open-face and IWC Caliber 72 Savonnette became one of the most appreciated and desirable movements for watch aficionados. Less than 700 were manufactured between 1904 and 1917. Nearly all of the movements were made as so-called “Quality Extra”. Because of their high precision, some of the Cal. 71/ Cal. 72 movements were observatory-rated and some Cal. 71 – having a center second - were used as deck watches at the British Royal Navy. Unlike IWC’s typical movements, these were remarkable in design, especially their curved bridges resembling a dolphin’s tailfin. The movement is considered one of the most beautiful ever produced in Schaffhausen. It is a perfect example of IWC 150 years of tradition of making high-quality watch movements with fine-looking design.

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THE BIG PILOT WATCH FOR GERMAN AIR FORCE (1940)

Calibre 52 T–19‴, H6, T. S. C. · Ref. 431. · Hand-wound · steel case

The Big Pilot watch is supplied to the German Air Force in 1940 in an edition of 1,000 pieces. The ‚big device' constructed according to the criteria for observation watches is the biggest wristwatch ever built by IWC, with a case diameter of 55 mm, a height of 16.5 mm and a weight of 183 g.

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THE PORTUGUESE WRISTWATCH (1954)

Calibre 98, 17‴, H4 · Ref. 325 · First manufactured with caliber 74 in 1939 · Hand-wound · steel case

At the end of the 1930s, IWC builds a large wristwatch with the precision of a pocket watch, at the request of two Portuguese merchants. For this purpose, it uses the pocket watch movement calibers 74 and 98. The noticeably big and striking wristwatch was first launched in 1939.

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DA VINCI - PERPETUAL CALENDAR TOURBILLON (PROTOTYPE 1998)

Caliber 76061-13¼‴, H 8.1 · Ref. 3752 · First manufactured 1985 · Hand-wound · 18 ct. yellow gold case

First launched at the 1985 Basel Fair, the ‘Da Vinci’ chronograph wristwatch recalls the era of mechanics and recalls the renaissance of the mechanical watch at the beginning of the 1980s. Constructed and designed by IWC master watchmaker Kurt Klaus, the ‘Da Vinci’ has a mechanically-programmed perpetual calendar that stretches 500 years into the future. In 1999, IWC introduced the DA VINCI - PERPETUAL CALENDAR TOURBILLON combining the perpetual calendar with the Tourbillon. A masterpiece of Haute Horlogerie in every sense of the term, that came with technology that continues to live up to the genius of its namesake.

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PORTOFINO (1984)

Caliber 9521-16¾‴ · Hand-wound · 18 ct. yellow gold

IWC resumes its tradition of the classic, functional round gold case, with its Portofino range of watches. Ref. 5251, with its outstanding horological features, marks its inception. In 1984, it quickly became the leading model of Portofino family.

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INGENIEUR (1956)

Caliber 8521-12¾‴, H6.5 · Ref. 666 AD · First manufactured in 1955 · Steel case

With the ‘Ingenieur’, the engineers at IWC were determined to build not only a highly precise watch but also one that is ideally protected. The movement of the Ingenieur displays extreme robustness, as does its case, which reliably shields its heart from magnetic fields, shocks and water.

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AQUATIMER (1967)

Caliber 8541B · Ref. 812 AD · First manufactured in 1967 · Steel case, “Tropical” Strap

Diving as a sport grew in popularity in the 1960s. IWC reacted to this development with the launch of its first diver’s watch, the ‘Aquatimer’. Its case is watertight down to a depth of 200 meters. The rotating bezel for adjusting the diving time is situated under the glass to prevent it from being moved by accident during a dive.

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DA VINCI – LADY CHRONOGRAPH (1988)

Caliber Q 630 · Ref. 8435 · First manufactured in 1988 · 18 ct. yellow gold case set with 95 diamonds

In 1988, IWC launched the Da Vinci – Lady Chronograph, Ref. 3735. A semi-mechanical Cal. 630 chronograph movement and a date and moon-phase display accompanied the Da Vinci collection since its inception. It was available in gold and stainless steel versions, set with or without diamonds. The Da Vinci - Lady Chronograph became one of IWC'S most successful watches for women at the time.

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