

REVOLUTION



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Christophe Claret
by Ken Kessler

CHRISTOPHE CLARET
MECCA

MOVEMENT

Caliber AVE15 self-winding movement;
hours and minutes; 72-hour power reserve

CASE

44mm; Grade 5 titanium;
72-hour power reserve

STRAP

Black alligator leather

As Christophe Claret increases the quantity of watches it produces under its own name, the catalogue has grown to include a number of lines. Tourbillons and minute repeaters have always been Claret specialties, and the growth as an eponymous brand rather than a maker of complications for others has engendered a policy of marrying diverse complications in unexpected ways, such as minute-repeater GMTs.

Though not launched at SIHH *per se*, the Marguerite and Mecca watches unveiled at the end of 2015 were available for close examination. Marguerite, part of the company's Margot range, is a perfect example of the ever-strengthening trend toward *haute horlogerie* watches designed expressly for women – a departure from merely down-sizing men's watches to suit women's wrists. As the company states, this model "affirms the brand's determination to give substance to a full-fledged feminine collection that consists of complications exclusively devoted to women."

Offered in four versions, Marguerite features two butterflies in blue, orange or red Super-LumiNova that flit around a daisy,

A micro-engraving of the Kaaba looks as if it is emerging from the middle of the watch. The illusion offers a full 360° view of the famous cube-shaped building found at the center of the sacred mosque in Mecca.

Christophe Claret

CHRISTOPHE CLARET
MARGUERITE

MOVEMENT

MT115 self-winding

CASE

18-karat rose gold or 18-karat white gold

STRAP

Red or blue leather with hand stitching

made with lacquered petals that overlap as in a real flower. The “female” perches on a daisy petal that rotates to show the hour, while “the male” indicates the minutes.

Mecca follows the Aventicum model unveiled in 2015, which contained an effigy of Emperor Marcus Aurelius presented holographically by a mirascope. This device consists of two parabolic mirrors arranged one on top of the other, the mirror on top having a hole in the middle. When an object is placed in the center of the bottom mirror, the reflection from the top mirror creates a hologram of the object appearing to be nearly two times larger than it actually is.

In the Mecca timepiece, a micro-engraving of the Kaaba looks as if it is emerging from the middle of the watch. The illusion offers a full 360-degree view of the famous cube-shaped building found at the center of the sacred mosque in Mecca.

Christophe Claret also presented new interpretations of its spectacular Soprano tourbillon-minute repeater with Westminster chimes and a gem-set version of the equally arresting Allegro minute repeater with cathedral gongs, GMT with day/night indicator, big date and small seconds. ★

