

# So Who Won at the 2015 Oscars of Watchmaking?

The 2015 GPHG is over and these are the winners

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Thursday evening in Geneva, the Grand Prix d'Horlogerie de Genève (GPHG) awards were held in Geneva's Grand Theater. These are the Oscars of fine watchmaking. [The nominees were announced](#) back in July and then [we got a shortlist](#) in September, but now the waiting is over. According to [a jury](#) of 26 watchmakers, journalists, and industry experts, these are the best watches of 2015.

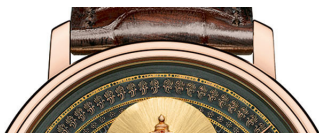
Aiguille d'Or (Grand Prize): Greubel Forsey Tourbillon 24 Secondes Vision



This incredible tourbillon is the 2015 watch of the year. Source: GPHG

No surprises here. It wasn't a shoo-in, but there's no question that Greubel Forsey is making some of the best watches on the planet right now. This is probably the most wearable watch they've made to date. It was one of [my favorites at SIHH](#) back in January and I'm still impressed every time I see it. Bravo.

Artistic Crafts: Blancpain Villeret Cadran Shakudo





The design on the dial is achieved entirely through engraving.

Source: GPHG

Most of the watches in this category are creations you wouldn't want to wear on a daily basis but might want to encounter in a gallery. This Villeret Cadran Shakudo is right in line with that aesthetic and the multi-colored, multi-layered engraving on the dial is unlike anything else you can find in a wristwatch.

### Calendar: Hermès Slim d'Hermès QP



A perpetual calendar with dual timezones and great design is tough to beat. Source: GPHG

This watch wowed journalists and collectors when it was unveiled in March, and I would have been shocked had it not taken this category. The combination of a perpetual calendar, a second timezone, a beautiful moonphase, and custom Art Deco numerals make this a watch you can't help but want to wear.

### Chronograph: Piaget Altiplano Chronograph





This year Piaget developed an ultra-thin chronograph. Source: GPHG

Ultra-thin is what Piaget is all about and until this year there was no chronograph in the brand's slim line-up. There were more complicated and ornate chronographs in the category but the judges seem to have gone with something that people really want to wear. I totally agree with their choice.

## Jewellery: Audemars Piguet Diamond Punk



Even if diamonds aren't your thing, there's no denying how incredible this watch is. Source: GPHG

Looking at this, you might not guess that it's from the same company that makes the Royal Oak and Millenary, but there you have it. The stonework is astounding and even if it's not your type of watch, you can't ignore just how skilled the artisans are who make it.

## Ladies': Hublot Big Bang Broderie



This watch is quintessentially Hublot and the attention to detail is astounding. Source: GPHG

If the jury steered toward the wearable in other categories, here they went for the most outlandish pick. The dial and band here feature hand-embroidery in a pattern that mixes flowers and skulls. Not exactly subtle, but oh so very Hublot.

## Ladies' High-Mechanical: Fabergé Lady Compliquée Peacock



An unusual and beautiful complication developed just for this watch. Source: GPHG

Often complications are developed for men's watches and then are adapted for ladies' models. This time display though, using a peacock and rotating disks, was created for this watch which combines gem setting, mother of pearl dial work, and mechanical complexity.

## Mechanical Exception: Jaquet Droz The Charming Bird



Inspired by eighteenth-century automata, this chirping bird fits on your wrist. Source: GPHG

The little bird in that bubble flutters its wings and chirps when you push the lone button on the case.

It's uncanny and sounds just like the real thing. The idea is taken from eighteenth-century automata, shrunk down to fit on the wrist.

## Men's: Voutilainen GMR



You'd be hard pressed to find a watch with higher quality hand-finishing than the GMR from Voutilainen. Source: GPHG

Kari Voutilainen and his team make very few watches each year and the finishing on each tiny movement component and dial element is top-tier and inspired by traditional pocketwatches. The overall look of the watches though is thoroughly modern and distinctive.

## Petit Aiguille: Habring2 Felix



Not every great watch has to cost a small fortune. Source: GPHG

In a category focused on relatively lower prices, the judges didn't compromise on quality. The Felix houses Habring2's first in-house movement designed and made in Austria and the clean looks make it something you can wear everyday. This is a real watch guy's watch.

## Sports: Tudor Pelagos





A major upgrade under the hood and a new color won the Pelagos this award. Source: GPHG

The Pelagos isn't new, but Tudor updated it with a bright blue color scheme and also added its new in-house movement earlier this year. The new Pelagos is equal parts indestructible and innovative. No one can argue with this award.

### Striking: Girard-Perregaux Minute Repeater Tourbillon with Gold Bridges



This repeater shows off all the technology with a transparent dial. Source: GPHG

The exaggerated gold bridges are a signature of Girard-Perregaux, but the mechanism they're supporting is totally new. The open dial lets you really admire the complex chiming mechanism that makes this watch special.

### Tourbillon: Ulysse Nardin Ulysse Anchor Tourbillon





For Ulysse Nardin this watch is understated but it's the mechanics that impress. Source: GPHG

Known more for its ornate and over-the-top watches, this Ulysse Nardin opts for technical innovation instead of brash aesthetics. The tourbillon also boasts a special escapement that further enhances accuracy and reliability over time. Plus that enamel dial is just super handsome.

### Horological Revelation: Laurent Ferrier Galet Square




A new shape for Laurent Ferrier, with all the usual precision. Source: GPHG

Ferrier is a long-time veteran of Patek Philippe and with his own brand is creating very high-end watches in small numbers. This is his first non-round watch and it packs all the same technology in the movement as the round models.

### Jury Prize: Vacheron Constantin Ref. 57260





The most complicated watch in the world got a surprise nod at the ceremony. Source: GPHG

This is [the most complicated watch ever made](#). Full stop. It wasn't nominated for anything (it wasn't even announced until just a few weeks ago), but the jury decided to give it a special nod anyway.

### Innovation Prize: Antoine Preziuso Tourbillon of Tourbillons



A father-son duo created a trifecta of tourbillons. Source: GPHG

This is the very first watch to combine three tourbillons in a single mechanism, and was created by a father-son duo. This watch also received the public prize, voted for online not by the jury but by the public. It was the only watch to win two awards.

### Revival Watch: Piaget Extremely Piaget Double Sided Cuff



Two watches and tons of diamonds. Source: GPHG

If the Altiplano shows off Piaget's watchmaking chops, this shows off the brand's jewelry skills. This cuff



has two watches and multiple rings of diamonds, recalling vintage pieces from the company's archive.

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# China Signs \$17 Billion Deal to Buy 130 Airbus Planes

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Kyunghee Park    Andrea Rothman  
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- ▶ Deal steps up competition with Boeing to sell to China
- ▶ China firms up options taken in June for A330 jetliners

China signed a deal to buy 130 planes from Airbus Group SE worth \$17 billion, firming up purchase options announced earlier this year and intensifying the race to dominate what's projected to become the world's biggest aircraft market.

The agreement for 30 twin-aisle A330 and 100 single-aisle A320 planes was signed Thursday during a Beijing meeting between Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Airbus said in a statement. The purchase was among a number of deals signed at the meeting.

Airbus and Boeing Co. are competing to carve up the Chinese aircraft market, expected to become the world's largest over the next two decades. China's economic growth and the emergence of budget airlines are making air travel affordable to more people, prompting carriers such as Air China Ltd. and China

Southern Airlines Co. to expand their fleets.

“Chinese demand for travel is growing and China will need more planes to meet that demand,” said Shukor Yusof, founder of Endau Analytics consultancy in Singapore.

## Foreign Plants

The 30 A330s firm up options taken in June, when China announced an order for 45 of the wide-body aircraft plus options for 30 more. The follow-on order will help Airbus bridge the gap as it moves from the existing A330 model to a variant with more fuel-efficient engines that will enter service in 2017.

The planemaker announced plans last December to cut monthly production to six A330s a month by 2016, from 10 now, as it transitions to the newer model. An order for 30 more planes means five months of work for the A330 line.

Airbus shares rose as much as 2.5 percent to 61.13 euros and were up 0.8 percent at 12:04 p.m. in Paris. The stock has surged 45 percent this year, valuing the company at 47.4 billion euros (\$51.9 billion).

China has encouraged foreign planemakers to expand their local footprints as its own fledgling aerospace industry takes shape. Airbus assembles A320s, most of which go to the Chinese market, at a factory in Tianjin. The European planemaker said in [July](#) it was finalizing an agreement with Chinese authorities to build a completion center for A330s.

Boeing won an order last month for 300 jets from Chinese carriers and lessors. The company said at the time it would soon open its first Chinese plant for 737 single-aisle planes.

## Booming Market

Chinese airlines will need 6,330 new planes in the next 20 years, worth some \$950 billion, according to a Boeing forecast.

China’s growing demand also is attracting interest from Russia, which plans to work with China on a wide-body plane that would compete with Boeing and Airbus jets. Russia’s United Aircraft Corp. and Commercial Aircraft Corp. of China, known as Comac, are discussing a work plan building on a memorandum of understanding signed in May 2014, Russian Deputy Industry Minister Andrey Boginsky [said](#) earlier this year.

China will become the world’s biggest air travel market by 2034, with one in five passengers traveling to, from or within the country, the International Air Transport Association said in April. About 70,000 flights - - some 10 percent of the world’s total -- operate to, from, or within mainland China every week, or according to IATA.

By 2020, 13 Chinese airlines will have more than 100 planes in their fleets, up from six carriers as of November 2014, the CAPA Centre for Aviation said last year. China Southern is Asia's biggest carrier by fleet size with over 400 planes, which moved more than 100 million passengers last year.

(Earlier versions of this story corrected the number and type of planes, and the currency of the deal.)

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