

MOST WANTED

Masters of the Domain

BY LAURIE BROOKINS PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS STEIN



The limited-edition Chapter One is the first-ever watch to include a *tourbillon* movement that features a mono-pusher column-wheel chronograph, retrograde date, retrograde GMT and phase-of-the-moon and day-of-the-week indications displayed on their own roller bars; by Maitres du Temps available exclusively at Wynn & Company Jewelry, Wynn Las Vegas, \$395,000.

Just when you thought status timepieces couldn't vault any further into the stratosphere of craftsmanship, price or collector expectation, along comes Steven Holtzman. Known among watch aficionados for introducing Swiss brands such as Roger Dubuis and Jean Dunand to the American market through his company, Helvetia Time Corporation, Holtzman wanted to elevate the concept by having the world's master watchmakers pool their creative resources. The result: Maitres du Temps, or "Masters of Time," which debuted with great fanfare at Basel, Switzerland's premier watch event earlier this year. For the launch, Holtzman asked the three undisputed stars of watchmaking to join forces: Roger Dubuis, Christophe Claret (lately best known for his work for Jean Dunand) and British

watchmaker Peter Speake-Marin. Each lent his singular talents to create Maitres du Temps' inaugural effort, the appropriately titled Chapter One. The first piece arrived at Wynn & Company Jewelry in late August. A combination of complications crafted from 558 components, Chapter One's considerable bells and whistles include the first-ever *tourbillon* movement to feature a mono-pusher column-wheel chronograph, retrograde date and GMT and phase-of-the-moon and day-of-the-week indications displayed on separate rolling bars, all encased in 18K rose gold. Ultimately Chapter One isn't just a beginning; it is, quite simply, a collaborative work of art. "Each master brings a new perspective and his own strengths," Holtzman says. "So by teaming up these gifted individuals, we can create something very special." ♠