

Hidden Gems: Modern-Day Limited Edition Jaeger-LeCoultre Watches

The Grumpy Collector
Podcast

Troy McHenry

November 24, 2021



Agenda



- Timeline of Jaeger-LeCoultre Maison
- What does modern-day mean with regard to Jaeger-LeCoultre?
- What constitutes a limited edition/series?
- Overview of limited editions to present (2005-ish)

But first...

How do you pronounce Jaeger-LeCoultre?

- JJ le Cole
- Jay-Jay La Coo-Coo
- Jay-gay or Yay-gay
- Jay Jay Luh Koot
- Yay-gur le Coo-trey
- Zhair zhair
- Zhay-zhay le Coolt ruh
- Zhey ZHER leh KOOLT



A Brief History of Jaeger-LeCoultre

The Watchmaker's Watchmaker / Have You Ever Worn a Real Watch?

- 1927: The LeCoultre family formed Société Anonyme de Produits Industriels et Commerciaux (SAPIC) as a holding company for their various watchmaking interests. Majority ownership in SAPIC was held by Jacques-David LeCoultre.
- 1937: SAPIC purchased the Paris-based Etablissements Ed. Jaeger, creating Jaeger-LeCoultre and merged with Vacheron & Constantin.
- 1965: SAPIC became SAPHIR on the exit of Vacheron & Constantin.
- 1969: SAPHIR sold to the Favre family. This brought Jaeger-LeCoultre and Favre-Leuba together.
- 1978: 65% of Jaeger-LeCoultre was sold to VDO Automotive.
- 1981: SAPHIR purchased the watch distribution and brand of Jaeger, which had been spun off as a separate concern the prior year. This was renamed Jaeger-LeCoultre France, resolving 50 years of confusion over the name.
- 1986: Audemars Piguet, purchased 40% of SAPHIR from VDO. VDO reorganized their watch operations including SAPHIR, together as Les Manufactures Horlogères (LMH).
- 1991: VDO acquired by Mannesmann (incidentally, the owner of the non-horological parts of Jaeger).
- 1999: Vodafone acquires Mannesmann and immediately puts VDO up for sale. Richemont agrees to purchase 40% of Jaeger-LeCoultre from Audemars Piguet for CHF 280 million.
- 2000: Richemont acquires LMH for CHF 2.8 billion from Vodafone.



What does modern-day mean with regard to Jaeger-LeCoultre Limited Editions?

- By 1990, the resurgence of interest in traditional mechanical watches was well underway. (Post quartz crisis)
- The early Reverso reboots and JLC quartz watches of the 1980's are forgettable at best with few exceptions.
- First modern JLC Limited Edition was in 1991.
- Word of the day: "Neo-Vintage"



What does Limited Series/ Edition mean?

- Watch was released with a public stated limit on the number of pieces made
- Not including piece-uniques (like for Only Watch)
- Not including “trivial” releases (only difference is an engraving on the back)



1989-1995 Master Grande Réveil

Limited Series of 250 in Platinum and 250 in 18ct pink gold

- Perpetual calendar with chiming alarm, moon phase, 24 hour dial.
- Automatic winding, double barrel (time and alarm)
- Offered in yellow 18ct, pink 18ct, and 950 platinum cases.
- Bronze alloy for gong
- Dimensions: 41mm
- Caliber: 919, 36 jewels, 350 parts
- Ref: 180.640.990 (A) plat., 180.240.990 (A) pink gold
- \$30,500 in Platinum, \$22,900 in pink gold (1994)



1991 Reverso 60th Anniversary “60ème”

Limited Series of 500

- Jaeger-LeCoultre celebrated the 60 years “soixantième” anniversary of the Reverso
- The first Reverso with complications other than date! (Power reserve and pointer date)
- Plates and bridges, solid 14-carat gold
- This watch was the start of a six-watch series of Limited Editions 18-carat pink (red) gold Reversos with complications.
- New Grande Taille case
- Dimensions: 26mm x 42mm
- Caliber: 824, 23 jewels, 193 parts
- Ref: 270.2.64



1993 Reverso Tourbillon

Limited Series of 500

- First tourbillon in a Reverso
- 18-carat pink gold case
- Power reserve on display caseback
- Dimensions: 26m x 42mm
- Caliber 828, 27 jewels, 194 parts
- Ref: 270.240.682
- Original price: \$40,000



1994 Reverso Minute Repeater

Limited Series of 500

- First minute repeater in a Reverso
- Two gong mechanism, display spinning governor cutout on dial
- 18-carat pink gold case
- Solid caseback
- Dimensions: 26mm x 42mm, 9.8mm thick
- Caliber 943, 38 jewels, 306 parts
- Ref: 270.240.732





1996 Reverso Retrograde Chronograph

Limited Series of 500

- Date on obverse, reverse chronograph display, 60 second dial and 30 minute retrograde counter
- Semi-skeletonized display case back
- 18-carat pink gold case
- Dimensions: 26mm x 42mm
- Caliber 829, 37 jewels, 371 parts
- Ref: 270.240.692
- Price: \$29,500 (\$39,500 on bracelet)



1998 Reverso Geographic

Limited Series of 500

- Dual-time zone, 24 city display, GMT +/-, day/night indicator on both sides
- 18-carat pink gold case
- Dimensions: 26mm x 36mm
- Caliber 858, 22 jewels, 206 parts
- Ref: 270.2.58



2000 Reverso Reverso Quantième Perpetuel

Limited Series of 500

- First perpetual calendar in a Reverso
- In addition to time and perpetual calendar (retrograde date), includes day/night indicator and moon phase
- Six hands, three rotating discs
- 18-carat pink gold case
- Dimensions: 26mm x 42mm (10mm thick)
- Caliber 855, 39 jewels (276 parts)
- Ref: 270.5.55



60th Anniversary Reverso Boxed Set

Limited Series of 500

*Buy all six, get a
free wooden box
and magnifying
glass!*



1992 Reverso Art Deco

Limited Series of 120

- Japan Domestic Market Release?
- Art Deco inspired dial
- Solid 18-carat pink gold case
- New Grande Taille case
- Dimensions: 26mm x 42mm
- Caliber: 822, 22 jewels
- Ref: 270.2.62



1992-2001 Reverso Art Deco

900 in pink gold, 200 in white gold

- Skeletonized movement, solid silver hand-chased dial, pink gold markers and dauphine hands
- 18-carat pink gold case
- Dimensions: 26mm x 42mm, thickness: 9.5 mm
- Caliber: 822AD, 22 jewels, 134 parts (116 orig)
- Ref: 270.240.623 (pink gold) aka 270.2.62
- Price: \$21,900 (1994), \$24,910 (1997)





1995 Reverso "Four Seasons" Limited Series of 25

- Set of four Reverso depicting each of the four seasons
- Based on work by Alphonse Mucha (Czech)
- 18-carat yellow gold case
- Enamel art on caseback (done by Miklos Merczel)
- Dimensions: 26mm x 42mm
- Caliber 822, 21 jewels
- Ref: 276.1.62



**1999
Reverso
Dawn & Dusk
(Aurore et Crépuscule)
Limited Series of 25**

- Set of two Reverso depicting Dawn & Dusk
- Based on work by Alphonse Mucha, original paintings done in 1899
- Grand feu enameled dial and back
- 18-carat yellow gold case
- Enamel art on caseback
- Dimensions: 26mm x 42mm
- Caliber 822, 21 jewels
- Ref: 276.1.62
- *Dusk: “shivering woman covering herself at the close of the day illustrates mankind’s fears and hesitations in the face of an unknown future”*



2018 Reverso Tribute Enamel Alfons Mucha

Limited Series of 8

- Homage to famous painter Alfons Mucha
- Dial finely guilloché by hand and covered with translucent Grand Feu enamel
- 70 hours of enameling and 30 hours of engraving for case back
- Caliber: 822A/2
- Ref: "Summer" Q39334M1, "Spring" Q39314M2, "Autumn" Q39314M3



1999 Atmos Marqueterie “Four Seasons”

Limited Series of 25

- 100 species of wood used
- 2,000 parts
- Jérôme Boutteçon (French Craftsman of the year in 1994) spent two years to do the woodwork for the 25 clocks
- Based on painting by Alfons Mucha
- Caliber: 566
- Ref: 226.027.2
- Price: \$57,500 (1999)



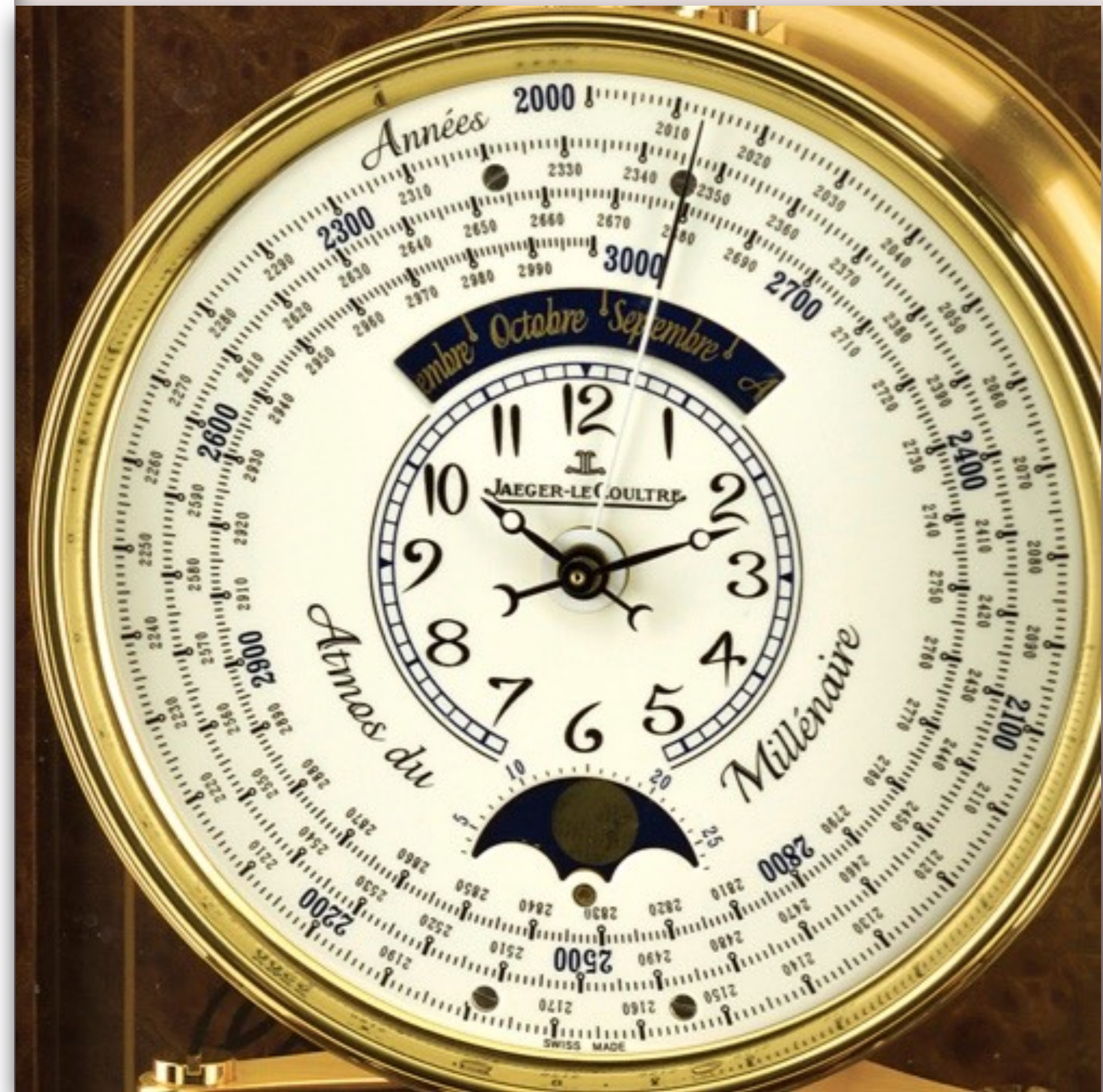
1999

Atmos du Millénaire Marqueterie

Limited Series of 25

- As a significant record in the Atmos history, Jaeger-LeCoultre recorded all the names of the owners of these "Atmos du Millénaire Marqueterie" clocks. Written down on parchment these names are stored in a sealed spherical glass container.
- This container is now in the private collection Jaeger-LeCoultre in Le Sentier (Vallée de Joux), Switzerland.
- Caliber: 555
- Ref: 555.126.3
- Price: \$59,900





As per JLC...

The clock would serve as "the precious receptacle of 1,000 years of important moments, traditions, secrets and joys, which undoubtedly would flow through the tide of countless generations".

Therefore, the secret drawer has been fitted with ten lacquered engraved gilt tubes each containing a parchment. The pen and ink are provided so that generations of owners will be able to "record significant family exploits or the grand hours of the millennium". One tube for each century.



2002
Reverso “Etoile du Matin” &
“Clair de Lune” Set
Limited Series of 25 Sets

- Grand feu enameled dial and caseback
- 18-carat yellow gold case
- Dimensions: 41.5mm, 15.5mm thick
- Caliber: 822
- Ref: 276.14.02, 276.14.01



1997 Master Perpetual

Limited Series of 250

- Platinum model was an LE
- Two-digit year, moon phase
- Unique “red mark” safety device in center
- Dimensions: 37mm
- Caliber: 889/440/2, 277 parts
- Ref: 149.64.8A/F/D (A)



1997 Master Geographic

Limited Series of 250

- Platinum model was an LE
- Power reserve, date, city crown at 10, adjusts time at 6, day/night indicator
- Dimensions: 38mm
- Caliber: 929/3, 38 jewels, 293 parts
- Ref: 142.64.80 (A)



1999 Master Moon

Limited Series of 250

- Platinum model was an LE
- Annual calendar, pointer date, moon phase
- Dimensions: 37mm
- Caliber: 891/448/2, 36 jewels
- Ref: 143.64.8A/F/D (A)



1999 Master Réserve de Marche

Limited Series of 250

- Platinum model was an LE
- Power reserve, date, city crown at 10, adjusts time at 6, day/night indicator
- Dimensions: 37mm
- Caliber: 928, 45 jewels
- Ref: 148.64.80 (A)



2001 Master Ultra Thin

Limited Series of 250

- Platinum model was an LE
- Time only
- Transparent case back
- Dimensions: 34mm, 5.8mm thick
- Caliber: 849, 19 jewels
- Ref: 145.64.80 (M)



2001 Master Grand Memovox

Limited Series of 250

- Platinum model was an LE
- Perpetual calendar with chiming alarm, moon phase, 24-hour dial.
- Automatic winding, double barrel (time and alarm)
- Note: no crown at 8:30
- Dimensions: 41.5mm, 15.5mm thick
- Caliber: 909, 36 jewels, 349 parts
- Ref: 146.64.8/A/F/D (A)



2001 Reverso 70th Anniversary “70ème”

Limited Series of 500

- Jaeger-LeCoultre celebrated the 70 years “septantième” anniversary of the Reverso.
- Power reserve, day/night indicator, big date
- First XGT Reverso case
- First Reverso to use an eight days power reserve movement with double barrels
- First JLC watch to display a big date.
- First JLC watch to receive a 18-carat solid white or rose gold movement
- Dimensions: 29mm x 46mm (12mm thick)
- Caliber 879, 25 jewels
- Ref: 240.2.19 (rose gold), 300.64.20 (platinum)





JAEGER-LE COULTRE

DUO SPRING-BARRELS

TWENTY-FIVE (25) JEWELS

SWISS MADE

879

11 1
10 2
9 3
8 4
7 5
6 6
5 7
4 8
3 9
2 10
1 11

RESERVE 8 JOURS

JOUR & NUIT

REVERSO

JAEGER-LE COULTRE

15

SWISS MADE



2000
Portuguese
artist, Júlio
Pomar, LE 30
pieces



2004
Portuguese
artist, José de
Guimarães LE
40 pieces



2001
Portuguese
artist, Manuel
Caraleiro LE 30
pieces

2002
Portuguese
artist, Paula
Rego LE 40
pieces





*Again, buy all four and
get a wooden box!*

2002 Reverso Platinum Number One

Limited Series of 500

- Open-worked/skeletonized movement
- Platinum case
- Display caseback
- Dimensions: 26mm x 36mm
- Caliber 849R-SQ, 19 jewels, 128 parts
- Ref: 216.64.01



2003 Master “Antoine LeCoultre”

Limited Series of 200

- Master Eight Days in Platinum
- Large date, power reserve, day/night indicator
- Twin-barrel, 8 days power reserve
- Power reserve bridge signed with A. LeCoultre’s signature
- Dimensions: 41.5mm
- Caliber 877, 25 jewels, 217 parts
- Ref: 160.64.20



2004 Reverso Platinum Number Two

Limited Series of 500

- Open-worked/skeletonized movement
- Platinum case, 18-carat white gold dial, bridges plates in 18-carat white gold
- This time with power reserve on the front!
- Display caseback
- Dimensions: 26mm x 42mm
- Caliber 848, 25 jewels, 204 parts
- Ref: 217.64.40



2004 Reverso Platinum Tourbillon Squelette

Limited Series of 35

- Open-worked/skeletonized movement
- One-minute tourbillon
- Platinum case, sapphire cabochon
- Display caseback
- Dimensions: 26mm x 42mm
- Caliber 848SQ
- Ref: 270.6.48



2004-2006 Master Control Geographic, Dual-time, Eight-Days

Limited Series of Dual-Time 120, Eight-Days 88

- Special series for Hour Glass (Singapore) and Tourneau, in stainless steel case
- Transparent case back
- Geographic Caliber 936, 38 jewels
- Dual-Time Calibre 972, 29 jewels
- Eight-Days Caliber 877, 25 jewels
- Dimensions: 41mm



2004-2006 Master Control Eight-Days

Limited Series of 50

- Power reserve, day/night indicator, big date
- Steel case
- Transparent case back
- Dimensions: 41mm
- Caliber: 877, 23 jewels
- Ref: 146.8.17



2005 Reverso Grande Wempe

Limited Series 100

- Celebrating 100 years of Wempe
- GMT AM/PM, sub seconds
- Stainless steel case
- Silver Dial with Rose Gold Hour Markers and Hands, Small Seconds at 6 O'clock,
- Dimensions: 29.3mm x 41.6mm, thickness: 12mm
- Caliber: 970, 29 jewels
- Ref: 240.8.72



2004 Horological Excellence Gyrotourbillon 1

Limited Series of 75

- Semi-skeletonized movement
- Multi-axis spherical Tourbillon, perpetual calendar (retrograde date, month and leap year indication), eight day power reserve and “running” equation of time
- Platinum case
- Display caseback
- Dimensions: 43mm
- Caliber 177, 117 jewels (659 parts)
- Orig. Price: \$340,000



2005 Master Minute Repeater “Antoine LeCoultre”

Limited Series of 200

- Semi-skeletonized movement
- Mov't power reserve (15 days!), power reserve and a spring torque indicator,
- Platinum case, bridge signed with A. LeCoultre's signature
- Display caseback
- Dimensions: 44mm
- Caliber 947, 43 jewels (413 parts)
- Ref: 164.64.20
- Orig. Price: \$245,000



This concludes Part 1 of Modern Limited Edition Jaeger-LeCoultre Watches

Find Troy online...

Instagram: @TheGrumpyCollector

Email: HiTroy@gmail.com

