

GP
GIRARD-PERREGAUX
HAUTE HORLOGERIE SUISSE DEPUIS 1791



ITALY: GIRARD-PERREGAUX PARTNER OF THE FAMOUS "WINTERACE" 2019

For the third consecutive year, Girard-Perregaux is partner of the WinteRace, among the most anticipated regularity races in Italy. From 28th of February to 3rd of March 2019, 50 teams with classic cars registered until 1976 will compete on a 550 km long route in two day stages.

What better opportunity to present, in an intense landscape such as the Italian Dolomites, a new masterpiece from the Manufactory based in La-Chaux de Fonds.

"Quasar", the name of Girard-Perregaux's most recent creation, which unveils, for the first time, the show of the iconic Neo-Tourbillon Movement Under Three Bridges, in a skeleton version, through a case entirely made of sapphire glass.

This material, unpublished at Girard-Perregaux, enhances the elements of decoration. Opaque, sandblasted, with sunrays, etched; architecture is an explosion of light!

Unveiled in mid-February during "Watches and Wonders" in Miami, Girard-Perregaux choose to present its new Quasar model, under the auspices of the "Earth to Sky" theme, for the first time to the European public during the WinteRace 2019. From "Earth to Sky", a philosophy that surely unites watchmaking with the world of motor sports, both dedicated to the constant search for new dimensions in technical and technological developments.

Last weekend, for the second time in a row, the winner of this year's edition of the WinteRace on classic cars is the team "Sisti-Gualandi" driving a Lancia Aprilia from 1937. On this occasion, the Swiss watchmaking manufactory Girard-Perregaux rewarded with its iconic "Laureato 42mm" black dial and exclusive strap dedicated to WinteRace, the team "Sala-Sala" on a Porsche 356 C from the year 1964 as best father-son crew. During the 4th Porsche WinteRace, a competition of modern Porsche Cars which follows the same rules as the one for classic cars, the Girard-Perregaux team "Valli-Bozzano", driving a Porsche Boxster S 718 was able to position themselves at the 3rd place of the podium.

The Quasar, a masterpiece of fine watchmaking, takes its name from the brightest of the astronomical entities, an ultra-luminous galaxy aggregated around a black hole. So enlightened, this tourbillon with a modern soul makes its entrance into the spectrum of light with its case made entirely of transparent sapphire crystal.

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Through these crystalline walls, Calibre GP9400-1035 reveals its openworked construction much like a star viewed with a telescope. This Haute Horlogerie movement draws the eye like a black hole and explodes with light, illuminating the gap between its components. Devoid of any opacity, Quasar allows photons to play freely across its matt surfaces and taut curves.

Quasar embodies a natural application of the four principles governing the Girard-Perregaux universe.

The first is the 1884 patent for three gold bridges visible on the dial side, the unique signature of the Maison. The second is the skeleton work hand-finished in the workshops of La Chaux-de-Fonds. The third is the 2015 birth of the Neo-Tourbillon with Three Bridges. The latter were neither straight nor made of gold, but instead arched, skeletonised and black. The fourth is the use of sapphire serving a function that is more technical than that of mere watch glasses. With the Laureato with Three Sapphire Bridges presented in 2007, crystal corundum had found its place in the very structure of a Fine Watchmaking calibre. These four vectors converge to create Quasar.

Fusion of matter and light

The 45 mm diameter Quasar case is entirely made of sapphire crystal. A chimney-style glass covers the movement bridges like a telluric dome. Its all-of-a-piece caseband features curving sides and angular lugs. At nearly 3,000 degrees Kelvin, fundamental particles merge under the effect of an incandescent flow of oxygen and dihydrogen. It is from this process that sapphire crystal emerges. It is then cut, machined, drilled, domed and polished using tools made from the hardest material in the universe: diamond.

Weightless core

Calibre GP9400-1035 is a modified version of Calibre 9400, from which the mainplate has been removed. Almost as if this had created a vacuum, the movement finds itself in an almost weightless state. Only physically essential anchoring points remain, as if providing a demonstration of aerial technique.

The bridges visually contribute to Quasar's overall transparency effect. They are made of titanium, sandblasted and then blackened by a PVD treatment. Their shape is so complex in all three dimensions, composed of interior angles, arches, returns and overhangs, that machining them represents a true watchmaking feat.

Horological astrophysics

According to the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, a quasar is an astronomical object of very high luminosity found in the centres of certain galaxies. powered by gas spiralling at high velocity into an extremely large black hole. A strange paradox composed of light and shade, it reflects the nature of the Girard-Perregaux Quasar. Combining the radiance pouring through the sapphire with the shadowy depths of its movement, it lives on the contrast that is the very essence of the universe. This watch shines like a star on the wrist, as complex as an equation and hotter than a galactic sun.

About Girard-Perregaux

Girard-Perregaux is a Swiss high-end watch manufacturer tracing its origins back to 1791. The history of the brand is marked by legendary watches that combine sharp design with innovative technology. Aesthete of the invisible, in 2019 the Maison is exploring the Cosmos, the essence of time, by introducing a new universe of innovative materials and unexpected complications within the fundamental collections, united by a single theme: "Earth to Sky". Girard-Perregaux is part of the Kering Group, a world leader in apparel and accessories, which develops an ensemble of powerful Luxury and Sport & Lifestyle brands.

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Technical information

Quasar

Reference: 99295-43-000-BA6A

Case

Material: sapphire glass

Diameter: 45 mm

Height: 15.25 mm

Glass: anti-reflective sapphire

Case-back: sapphire crystal

Dial: no dial

Hands: skeletonised, white gold, 'Dauphine' type, with luminescent material

Water resistance: 30 meters (3 ATM)

Movement

Reference: GP09400-1035

Winding: Automatic

Functions: Tourbillon, hours, minutes, small seconds on the tourbillon

Power reserve: min. 60 hours

Number of components: 260, of which 27 jewels

Frequency: 21,600 Vib/h – (3 Hz)

Diameter: 36.00 mm (16'')

Thickness: 9.54 mm

Tourbillon

Tourbillon carriage composed of 80 components weighing only 0.250 grams

Strap

Material: hand-sewn black alligator leather

Buckle: titanium triple folding clasp

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