



VACHERON CONSTANTIN
GENÈVE



Les Cabinotiers
**RÉCITS
DE
VOYAGES**

A watchmaking odyssey honouring arts
and cultures of the world

Les Cabinotiers Minute Repeater Tourbillon
Tribute to arabesque

Les Cabinotiers Minute Repeater Tourbillon
Tribute to Art Deco style

Embargo lifted on 27 November 2023 - 9:00 AM CET



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- Les Cabinotiers – Récits de Voyages sets off to discover the world and its wonders in the spirit of openness that has characterised Vacheron Constantin since its origins: among the various destinations are the Middle East, where Vacheron Constantin has been active since 1817; and New York, where the Maison has been present since 1832.
- Two regions, two decorative arts - Art Deco and arabesque art, that have influenced the world.
- The engraving, chasing, wood marquetry and gemsetting crafts pay vibrant tribute to these cultures: with decorations from the Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi and the architecture of New York's Chrysler Building serving as inspiration.
- Emblematic of the Maison's technical mastery, these two single-piece editions are powered by in-house Calibre 2755 TMR with a minute repeater and tourbillon regulator.

The single-piece edition timepieces in the new Les Cabinotiers – Récits de Voyages range reflect Vacheron Constantin's geographical expansion. Since very early on in its history, Vacheron Constantin has taken an interest in new Mediterranean markets, becoming familiar with the particularities of Ottoman culture by trading with Turkey from 1817 and subsequently with those of Arab culture through its exchanges with Egypt as of 1865. By this time, the Maison has been established in New York since 1832, a city that would soon be home to Art Deco skyscrapers. Les Cabinotiers Minute Repeater Tourbillon – Tribute to Art Deco style and Tribute to arabesque celebrate the distinctive architecture of these destinations. Both are powered by in-house Calibre 2755 TMR featuring two major horological complications: the tourbillon and the minute repeater.



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Vacheron Constantin's relationship with the Middle East began in 1817 with Turkey and its cities of Smyrna and Constantinople, then at the head of the centuries-old Ottoman Empire. It continued with Egypt, still under Ottoman influence, from 1865 onwards. The proximity of these markets and the historical depth of these commercial relations form a chronology punctuated by exceptional creations from Vacheron Constantin, whose reputation for highly complicated watches has earned it orders for timepieces that are now part of watchmaking history. These include a watch, made at the request of the Swiss community in Egypt, which, according to a letter preserved in the Manufacture's archives, was to "contain the pinnacle of the watchmaking art", and was gifted to King Fouad 1 of Egypt in 1929; as well as a watch delivered to his son King Farouk in 1946 which represented the world's the most complicated model at the time. The ruling families of the region, led by Saudi Arabia's King Abdelaziz Ibn Seoud (1876-1953), were among the Maison's regular customers.

The design of Les Cabinotiers Minute Repeater Tourbillon – Tribute to arabesque watch is devoted to the architectural wealth of the Muslim world with its pointed arches, domes and mashrabiya. The engraving work took three months and required extremely meticulous care in making certain tenth-of-a-millimetre incisions.



1929 - Grande complication pocket watch which belonged to the Egyptian King Fouad 1st

1946 - Grande complications pocket watch once owned by King Farouk I of Egypt

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The motifs chosen to decorate this watch were modelled on those of the Sheikh Dayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, the largest in the United Arab Emirates, built between 1995 and 2007, in which arabesque and floral patterns are omnipresent on the 82 domes and four minarets. The engraver has reproduced these organic volutes using line engraving on the various case parts, while opting for a more geometrical pattern on the flange. Applied with a burin to the canvas traced by a drypoint, this intaglio engraving technique lends a light, graceful touch to a model that asserts its personality through black and white contrasts.

The dial is an artwork inspired by mashrabiyyas. An openworked and engraved white gold "lattice-work cover" sits atop a black background, finely chased to give it a matt grained texture.

Here too, the master artisan used the line engraving technique; and in some areas, where the motif required more depth, it resembles a bas-relief process. Given the intricacy of the ornamentation, the thinness of the surfaces to be engraved as well as the slenderness of the white gold plate, this engraving work, which took a month to complete, represents a rare feat of dexterity.

Bearing the Hallmark of Geneva, Les Cabinotiers Minute Repeater – Tribute to arabesque comes in an 18K white gold case measuring 44 mm in diameter and 13.5 mm thick, fitted with an alligator leather strap secured by a white gold folding clasp engraved with arabesques.





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Across the Atlantic, the Americas became a favourite destination for Vacheron Constantin. From the 1810s onwards, the Maison increased its trade, particularly with the United States. In 1832, Geneva watchmaker Jean Magnin, by then based in New York, had an assortment of Vacheron Constantin watches with enamel paintings sent to him through brokers in Le Havre. Jean Magnin and his successor Ferdinand Thieriot represented the Maison until 1848, gradually opening up the market to encompass the country's major cities. By the early 20th century, the Maison's presence was already well established in America, notably among the country's eminent families, whose representatives wore Vacheron Constantin timepieces. Among them were the Rockefellers, Henry and William James, as well as car manufacturer James Ward Packard.

Given the small size of the city, it was at this time that these business tycoons decided to give their New York headquarters an increasingly vertical appearance. From the 1920s onwards, Manhattan began to bristle with skyscrapers in the Art Deco style, such as the Chrysler Building. Built between 1928 and 1930, it was the tallest tower in the world at 319 metres high and is best known for its terraced crown composed of seven arches clad in silvery metal.



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The Les Cabinotiers Minute Repeater Tourbillon – Tribute to Art Deco style watch celebrates this unique architectural splendour through wood marquetry, a technique inspired by cloisonné enamelling in this instance. Created on two levels to accentuate its depth, the upper flat part of the dial features a radiating motif reminiscent of the interior decorations typical of the Art Deco period.

For the first time, Vacheron Constantin has produced a dial combining wood marquetry and *champlevé*.

To create this dial, the marquetry craftsman had to take extra care when cutting the 110 small wood veneers, a process that had to be extremely accurate to ensure they fit perfectly into the tiny alveoli. The marquetry specialist begins by drawing his canvas, deep-staining and then sanding the pearwood and tulipwood to obtain the desired shade of black and blue for the model. It took the master artisan a full month's work to create this work in metal and wood, a nod to the gleaming spire of the Chrysler building as well as the wood inlays adorning its elevators.

This high-precision craftsmanship is surrounded by a 'pearl' minutes track, punctuated by 11 faceted diamond hour-markers that are progressively slimmer as they approach 12 o'clock so as to accentuate the vanishing line. In addition to the marquetry and gemsetting work, the watch is also engraved: the model's 18K 5N pink gold case is entirely adorned with herringbone motifs created using the technique of line engraving on the case middle, lugs and bezel, thereby enhancing the allure of a timepiece embodying the creative momentum typical of the Roaring Twenties.

The Les Cabinotiers Minute Repeater Tourbillon – Tribute to Art Deco style model bears the prestigious Hallmark of Geneva. It comes in an 18K pink gold case measuring 44 mm in diameter and 13.5 mm thick, fitted with an alligator leather strap secured by a folding clasp engraved with geometrical motifs.





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A complex mechanism: in-house Calibre 2755 TMR

The manual-winding 2755 TMR movement combines the musical charm of a minute repeater with the timekeeping precision of a Maltese cross-shaped tourbillon regulator. Designed to compensate for the effects of the Earth's gravity, this mechanism operates at a low frequency of 2.5 Hz (18,000 vibrations per hour). This enables its complexity to be fully appreciated – especially as it is the only mechanical element visible from the front, with the 58-hour power reserve displayed by a hand on the back of the watch. The only sign of the minute repeater's presence is the slidepiece on the case middle.



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To create this on-demand striking mechanism, one of the most delicate horological complications due to its melodiously audible nature, Vacheron Constantin's engineers and master watchmakers drew inspiration from the work carried out on the La Tour de l'île anniversary watch in 2005 and notably its strike governor.

This system enables the duration of the musical sequences to be perfectly timed in order to obtain a distinct and harmonious sound from the notes played for the hours, quarters and minutes by the hammers striking the two circular gongs. Calibre 2755 TMR features High Watchmaking finishing including meticulously hand-chamfered bridges adorned with a Côtes de Genève pattern, a circular-grained mainplate and a beautifully rounded-off tourbillon carriage bar.



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Les Cabinotiers Récits de Voyages series

Vacheron Constantin's vocation has always been to perfect the art of watchmaking in Geneva while remaining open to the world. The founder's grandson Jacques-Barthélemy Vacheron (1787-1864) was the first to criss-cross the roads of France and Italy, followed by his partner François Constantin (1788-1854), a tireless traveller who oversaw the commercial development of the Maison. He established commercial relations with Central Europe, South America, Scandinavia and Asia, during a period in time when Vacheron Constantin was also gaining a foothold in the United States and China, as well as in Brazil, Hong Kong and Cuba.

François Constantin's correspondence stretching over a quarter of a century paints the portrait of a Manufacture that was open to a Europe undergoing major restructuring in the aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars and the Congress of Vienna. This scope and reach continued to expand as the Vacheron Constantin name crossed borders and conquered new markets. Since that time, the very notion of travel has been inherent to the values of the Maison, an integral part of the human adventure characterising its nearly 270-year history. Following in its founders' footsteps, the Maison offers these Récits de Voyages series as a watchmaking odyssey through the world and its wonders, applying craftsmanship and mechanical art as its means of expression.





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The two single-piece edition Les Cabinotiers Minute Repeater Tourbillon – Tribute to arabesque and Tribute to Art Deco style watches celebrate Vacheron Constantin's spirit of openness to the world in its new Récits de Voyages collection. Both bear the Hallmark of Geneva and are powered by in-house Calibre 2755 TMR with tourbillon and minute repeater, featuring the power-reserve indication visible through the sapphire caseback. This movement has benefited from developments made for the Tour de l'Île, an ultra-complicated timepiece celebrating the Maison's 250th anniversary. In honour of the links

forged with the Middle East and the United States in the early 19th century, as well as of their respective artistic cultures, the Maison has created an arabesque decoration for the former, entrusted to a master engraver; and Art Deco ornamentation for the latter, using wood marquetry complemented by gemsetting and engraving. The decorations adorning the Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi and the architecture of the Chrysler Building in New York served as the inspiration for these two exceptional 44 mm-diameter gold timepieces.



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Is the influence of the Middle East really perceptible in Vacheron Constantin's creations?

In the same way that devotees of exoticism have at certain times shown a genuine interest in the decorative arts from the Far East, particularly China and Japan, Vacheron Constantin's heritage collection also contains numerous examples of objects inspired by Moorish art, inseparable from arabesques and floral decoration. As Vacheron Constantin established trade relations with countries to the east of the Mediterranean basin as early as the 1810s, pocket watches from the early 19th century notably feature finely chased arabesque ornamentation, sometimes surrounded by rows of pearls or stones. This type of highly elaborate motif, which draws upon the art of engraving as well as champlévé, can be found on a number of Vacheron Constantin timepieces. Since the earliest exchanges with the region, Islamic architecture and richly illuminated Arabic manuscripts have been a favourite source of inspiration for the Manufacture's artisans. A new peak of this art is nonetheless reached in Les Cabinotiers Minute Repeater Tourbillon – Tribute to arabesque.

Does Art Deco also have a longstanding tradition within the Maison?

Vacheron Constantin's private collection contains small treasures typifying the Art Deco style and testifying to the intense creativity of this exuberant universe. The production of this era – swept through by winds of freedom in response to classic watchmaking traditions – is characterised by ultra-thin pocket watches, travel watches, brooches and above all jewellery watches. Right from the outset, Vacheron Constantin has participated in – if not anticipated – the major trends in fashion and design with an innate sense of elegance, consistently tinged with fantasy. As far as the Art Deco influence is concerned, there's much more to it than a hint, as at the time it represented an art of living that was to have a lasting influence, including on watchmaking.



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This art movement continues to fascinate, if this new collection is anything to go by?

A glance at this watch, inspired by the Chrysler Building, immediately immerses us into the Art Deco period, which enjoyed phenomenal success in the United States, particularly in the field of architecture. The dial ornamentation also recalls the head gear of this glamorous era, as well as the geometrically patterned, highly symmetrical yet flamboyant decorations. When a watch dial exudes such expressive power, it exerts a kind of fascination. In this sense, the exercise is a perfect success, especially since it is based on a rare technique requiring great expertise and an immeasurable amount of patience and meticulousness, and all the more so because it takes a month to complete. The same is true of the Tribute to the arabesque motif, a veritable masterpiece of engraving a motif whose complexity is matched only by the difficulty of actually creating it.

So the focal point is the rich range of artistic crafts?

While artistic crafts do indeed represent an essential component of our Les Cabinotiers single-piece edition watches, it is only part of the equation. Each is also a showcase for our expertise in mechanical watchmaking, especially in the world of grand complications. These two models – Tribute to Art Deco style and Tribute to arabesque – are perfect examples of this phenomenon, even though they do not reveal all their complexity at first glance. They incorporate one of the most sophisticated calibres we have produced in recent years, stemming from a dedicated development based on the Tour de l'Île, the jubilee watch marking the 250th anniversary of Vacheron Constantin and incorporating 16 complications. It is worth recalling that Vacheron Constantin's first ultra-thin minute-repeater wristwatch was introduced in 1941. With this manual-winding Calibre 2755 TMR measuring just 6.1 mm thick, we are perpetuating this tradition by incorporating the latest technical innovations, notably relating to the repeater striking mechanism. What's more, this movement is regulated by a tourbillon, a guarantee of excellent timekeeping precision, not to mention the aesthetic benefits of such regulation, as can be clearly seen on these two watches. Another advantage of this Calibre 2755 is that its construction enables different functions – and notably astronomical ones – to be incorporated by means of modules. As an example, we have presented this same minute repeater and tourbillon calibre with a perpetual calendar, or a sky chart on the back of the movement whose rotation is set to sidereal time, complete with indications of the day, month and cardinal points.



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Minute repeater tourbillon – Tribute to Arabesque

Reference	6650C/000G-084C Hallmark of Geneva certified timepiece
Caliber	2755 TMR Developed and manufactured by Vacheron Constantin Mechanical manual-winding 33.90 mm diameter, 6.10 mm thick Movement power reserve: approximately 58 hours 2.5 Hz (18'000 vibrations/hour) 471 components 40 jewels
Indications	Hours and minutes Tourbillon Small seconds on tourbillon Minute repeater Power reserve
Case	18K hand-engraved white gold 44 mm diameter, 13.50 mm thick Transparent sapphire crystal caseback
Dial	18K white gold hand-chiseled anthracite dial and 18K white gold openworked plate hand-engraved
Strap	Black Mississippiensis alligator leather with alligator leather inner shell, hand-stitched with platinum stitches, saddle-finish, large square scales
Clasp	18K hand-engraved white gold folding clasp
Presentation box & accessory	Les Cabinotiers model

Unique timepiece

« Pièce unique », « Les Cabinotiers » and « AC » hallmark engraved on the back of the timepiece



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Minute repeater tourbillon – Tribute to Art Deco style

Reference	6520C/000R-085C Hallmark of Geneva certified timepiece
Caliber	2755 TMR Developed and manufactured by Vacheron Constantin Mechanical manual-winding 33.90 mm diameter, 6.10 mm thick Movement power reserve: approximately 58 hours 2.5 Hz (18'000 vibrations/hour) 471 components 40 jewels
Indications	Hours and minutes Tourbillon Small seconds on tourbillon Minute repeater Power reserve
Case	Hand-engraved 18K 5N pink gold 44 mm diameter, 13.50 mm thick Transparent sapphire crystal caseback
Dial	Blue and black wood marquetry dial (black tinted pear tree and blue tinted tulip tree) with 11 baguette-cut diamond hour-markers (approx. 0.10 ct.)
Strap	Dark blue Mississippiensis alligator leather with alligator leather inner shell, hand-stitched with 18K 5N pink gold stitches, saddle-finish, large square scales
Clasp	18K 5N hand-engraved pink gold folding clasp
Presentation box & accessory	Les Cabinotiers model

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Founded in 1755, Vacheron Constantin is the world's oldest watch Manufacture in continuous production for nearly 270 years, faithfully perpetuating a proud heritage of watchmaking excellence and stylistic sophistication through generations of master craftsmen.

At the pinnacle of Haute Horlogerie and understated elegance, the Maison creates timepieces with unique technical and aesthetic signatures, and an extremely high level of finishing touches.

Vacheron Constantin brings to life unparalleled heritage and a spirit of innovation through its collections: Patrimony, Traditionnelle, Métiers d'Art, Overseas, Fiftysix, Historiques and Égérie. It also offers its discerning clientele of connoisseurs the rare opportunity to acquire vintage pieces within the Les Collectionneurs assortment, as well as unique and bespoke timepieces by means of its Les Cabinotiers department.

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