



## PRESENTATION OF THE OYSTER COLLECTION

The Oyster is the embodiment of Rolex's prestige and know-how, a true watchmaking archetype. Today the collection consists of some 15 ranges: Classic watches like the Datejust, the Day-Date and the Sky-Dweller, as well as Professional watches, such as the Explorer, the Submariner and the GMT-Master II, designed for specific activities.



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Beyond its legendary technical performance, the Oyster's aesthetic codes set it apart as a benchmark of universal and timeless style, a lifestyle icon. An Oyster watch constitutes a perfect alchemy of form and function and is recognizable at first glance.

The Oyster collection was built on the success of the original Oyster model, patented by Rolex and launched in 1926. As the first waterproof wristwatch in the world, it played a pioneering role in the development of the modern wristwatch. Over the years the Oyster became the proud bearer of many other innovations – such as self-winding by means of the Perpetual rotor – that defined the identity of the different models, forged Rolex's reputation for excellence and often went on to set watchmaking standards.

### THE IDENTITY OF THE OYSTER COLLECTION IS BASED ON FOUR FUNDAMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS:

#### ■ WATERPROOFNESS

First and foremost, the Oyster is distinguished by the hermetic case invented by Rolex in 1926, from which its name is derived. It was the first waterproof wristwatch in the world thanks to an ingenious patented system combining a screw-down bezel, case back and winding crown. The Oyster thus provided a definitive solution to one of the inherent weaknesses of the wristwatch, which was more exposed to external hazards than the pocket watch.

Today, the Oyster case, entirely manufactured by Rolex, is waterproof to a minimum depth of 100 metres (330 feet) – 300 metres (1,000 feet) for the Submariner, 1,200 metres (4,000 feet) for the Sea-Dweller and up to 3,900 metres (12,800 feet) for the Rolex Deepsea. Its middle case is crafted from a block of particularly corrosion-resistant Oystersteel, 18 ct gold or 950 platinum. The case back, edged with fine fluting, is hermetically screwed down with a special tool that allows only Rolex watchmakers to access the movement. The winding crown is fitted with a waterproofness system, either the Twinlock (double waterproofness system) or the Triplock (triple waterproofness system, notably on divers' models). It screws down securely against the middle case. The waterproof Oyster case provides the high-precision movement with optimal protection from water, dust, pressure and shocks.

#### ■ CHRONOMETRIC PRECISION

The Oyster is also characterized by its great precision. Each Oyster is certified as a Superlative Chronometer. This exclusive designation attests that it has successfully undergone a series of tests



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conducted by Rolex in its own laboratories and according to its own criteria, which exceed watchmaking norms and standards. These tests are carried out on the fully assembled watch, in order to guarantee its superlative performance on the wrist. The Superlative Chronometer status is symbolized by the green seal that comes with every Rolex watch and is coupled with an international five-year guarantee.

The precision of every movement – officially certified as a chronometer by COSC (Swiss Official Chronometer Testing Institute) – is, therefore, tested a second time by Rolex after being cased, to ensure that it meets criteria for precision that are far more exacting than those for an official chronometer. The tolerance for the average rate of a Rolex Superlative Chronometer is of the order of  $-2/+2$  seconds per day. Its precision is tested by Rolex using an exclusive methodology that simulates the conditions in which a watch is actually worn and is much more representative of real-life experience.

The Superlative Chronometer certification testing is carried out after casing using state-of-the-art equipment specially developed by Rolex.

### ▪ SELF-WINDING

In 1931, Rolex invented a self-winding mechanism with a free rotor, called the Perpetual rotor, based on a patented principle that would later be adopted by the whole watchmaking industry. The Oyster became the Oyster Perpetual, and this designation appears today on the dials of all models in the collection – with the exception of certain decorated and gem-set dials – to indicate that they are waterproof and feature a self-winding movement. The Perpetual rotor consists of a half-moon shaped oscillating weight rotating freely on its axis in both directions under the impetus of the wearer's wrist movements. The rotor transmits energy to the mainspring, the motor of the watch.

Apart from increased comfort for the wearer, who is freed from winding the watch every day, the Perpetual rotor helps to reinforce the waterproofness of the Oyster by eliminating the need to regularly unscrew the crown, an operation which exposes the movement to dust and humidity. By continuously winding the mainspring, the rotor maintains a stable high-level supply of energy to the movement, ensuring greater regularity and enhancing the precision of the watch. Self-winding via the Rolex Perpetual rotor provides excellent winding power in both rotation directions of the weight.



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### ■ RELIABILITY

All watches in the Oyster collection are in a class of their own when it comes to the rigorous design that allows them to faithfully fulfil their functions over time and under any circumstances. This reliability is the fruit of the technical choices made by Rolex as well as the draconian reliability controls and tests imposed on the watch components to satisfy the brand's stringent standards.

For its watch cases and bracelets, Rolex uses only highly resistant noble materials: 18 ct gold cast and machined in its own foundry, 950 platinum, or particularly corrosion-resistant Oystersteel. And for certain bezels or bezel inserts, non-fading, virtually scratchproof, corrosion-resistant ceramic. The Oyster case is a paragon of robustness and waterproofness. It provides the movement with optimal protection against external hazards. The reliability of Oyster watches also includes the metal bracelets and clasps, designed and manufactured by Rolex to maximize wearing comfort and security.

The Perpetual movement – whose architecture is common to all models – is designed to ensure excellent long-term resistance to shocks, effects of gravity, magnetic interference and temperature variations that would affect accuracy. It also allows ease of maintenance for many years, anywhere in the world.

### THE MANY VARIATIONS OF THE OYSTER

The Oyster is the incarnation of the ideal watch as conceived by the visionary genius Hans Wilsdorf, founder of Rolex: a precise, reliable and functional watch of timeless elegance, which can be worn in any circumstance. After it acquired its definitive form in the early 1940s, this archetypal wristwatch gradually evolved into a coherent collection of watches integrating new functions and innovative technologies. It was nonetheless developed with continuity, strictly abiding by fundamental principles that embody its perfection. This explains why all the models in the Oyster collection share a very strong visual identity that makes them immediately recognizable. And also why their family relationship with the original model remains evident.

The model with the most direct line of descent is the Oyster Perpetual – a precise and reliable watch with three hands, characterized by its waterproof Oyster case and self-winding Perpetual movement. The Oyster collection has developed around two axes. Firstly, elegant and prestigious watches, with a calendar, like the Oyster Perpetual Datejust and the Oyster Perpetual Day-Date, launched in 1945 and 1956 respectively; and the Oyster Perpetual Sky-Dweller launched in 2012. Secondly, Professional watches, veritable tool-watches that take full advantage of their waterproofness,



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robustness and precision to offer dedicated functions for specific activities. This second category was inaugurated in 1953 with the simultaneous launch of the Oyster Perpetual Explorer, an extremely robust and legible model intended for explorers and mountaineers, and the Oyster Perpetual Submariner, the first divers' wristwatch waterproof to a depth of 100 metres (330 feet) and equipped with a rotatable graduated bezel, specially developed for deep-sea diving.

Over the decades, these two categories have expanded, adding numerous models, each with its own strong personality. The Oyster Perpetual Datejust has appeared in versions for ladies, allying aesthetic refinement and technical performance in smaller sizes, such as the Lady-Datejust and the graceful, divinely gem-set Pearlmaster models.

In the Professional category, new watches have been developed to meet the particular demands and needs of aeroplane pilots (GMT-Master II), physicists (Milgauss), racing drivers (Cosmograph Daytona) and sailors (Yacht-Master and Yacht-Master II).

## TODAY, THE MAIN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OYSTER COLLECTION ARE:

### ▪ OYSTER PERPETUAL DATEJUST

The Oyster Perpetual Datejust perfectly embodies the classic watch with timeless elegance. Launched in 1945, it was the first self-winding waterproof chronometer wristwatch to display the date in a window at 3 o'clock on the dial – hence its name. It consolidated all the major innovations that Rolex had contributed to the wristwatch until then – chronometric precision (first chronometer certificates granted to a wristwatch as of 1910), waterproofness (creation of the Oyster case in 1926) and the self-winding mechanism (Perpetual rotor patented from 1931). A particularly elegant metallic bracelet with five-piece links – the Jubilee bracelet – was created specially for it.

In 1953, the famous Cyclops lens was added on the crystal, magnifying the date for easy reading. Another innovation emerged in 1956: the date change at midnight became instantaneous.

Today, the Datejust is available in several sizes ranging from 28 to 41 mm, and in different materials – Oystersteel, 18 ct gold and 950 platinum, as well as Rolesor versions (combining Oystersteel and 18 ct yellow, white or Everose gold) – all with a great variety of dials, bezels and bracelets. Diamond-set versions are also available.



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### ▪ OYSTER PERPETUAL DAY-DATE

The Oyster Perpetual Day-Date is the most prestigious and exclusive watch in the Oyster collection. At its launch in 1956, the Day-Date marked a world first: the first calendar wristwatch to indicate, in addition to the date, the day of the week spelt out in full in a window on the dial – a technical feat at the time. With its standing as a watch of great prestige, available only in precious metals – 18 ct yellow, white or Everose gold or 950 platinum – it quickly became the watch of influential people. The indication of the day of the week is available in a choice of 26 languages. The date display is magnified by a Cyclops lens on the crystal. The simultaneous day and date change takes place instantaneously at midnight.

The Day-Date is available in gem-set versions and in two sizes – 36 and 40 mm. The President bracelet, which was specially created for the Day-Date, perfectly complements the watch's aesthetics. This bracelet with three semi-circular solid links in precious metal is equipped with a concealed Crownclasp and offers the wearer unique comfort and elegance befitting the Day-Date's singular status.

### ▪ OYSTER PERPETUAL SKY-DWELLER

A classic and elegant watch for world travellers, the Oyster Perpetual Sky-Dweller is a compelling timepiece of revolutionary design that blends to perfection technological sophistication and ease of use. A technological masterpiece with multiple patent applications filed over the course of its development the Sky-Dweller provides, in an unprecedented and highly original way, the information global travellers need to easily keep track of time: a dual time zone, with local time read via centre hands and a reference time display in 24-hour format read via a rotating off-centre disc visible on the dial; a particularly innovative annual calendar named Saros – after the astronomical phenomenon of the same name – that displays the date at 3 o'clock and the month via 12 apertures around the circumference of the dial, and requires only one date adjustment a year, when the month changes from February to March

To set its functions quickly and easily, the Sky-Dweller is equipped with a new patented interface: the rotatable Ring Command bezel.

### ▪ OYSTER PERPETUAL EXPLORER

Watch of daring exploits and mountaineering triumphs, the Oyster Perpetual Explorer embodies the Oyster Perpetual's spirit of robustness and resistance to extreme conditions. Born in 1953, a direct descendant of the first successful ascent of Everest by a British expedition equipped with Oyster





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Perpetual watches, it offers optimal legibility in any situation thanks to its contrasting black dial, its Chromalight display with long-lasting luminescence (hands, hour markers and emblematic 3, 6 and 9 numerals). A timepiece for all achievers, the Explorer, with the timeless design of its 39 mm Oystersteel case, pays homage to pioneers and exalts the spirit of adventure.

### ▪ OYSTER PERPETUAL EXPLORER II

The Oyster Perpetual Explorer II perpetuates the spirit of adventure and the extreme robustness of the Explorer while incorporating new functions designed particularly for polar and subterranean exploration. This model created in 1971 has a very legible dial and includes an additional hand indicating the time in 24-hour format on a fixed graduated bezel. The display enables the wearer to clearly distinguish daytime from night-time hours – an essential function for cavers who spend entire days without seeing daylight and for polar expeditions that have to contend with the midnight sun or continuous night. This additional display also allows the Explorer II to indicate the time in two time zones. Local time is shown by the conventional hour hand, while the time in a second time zone (reference time) can be read off the graduated bezel using the 24-hour hand. Local time can be set easily – the hour hand “jumps” from hour to hour thanks to an ingenious mechanism operated via the winding crown. The adjustment can be made independently of the minute and seconds hands, without affecting the running of the watch or the reference time. The Oyster Perpetual Explorer II, available with a white or black dial in a 42 mm Oystersteel case, also features the date magnified by a Cyclops lens on the crystal.

### ▪ OYSTER PERPETUAL SUBMARINER

The first divers’ wristwatch waterproof to a depth of 100 metres (330 feet), the Oyster Perpetual Submariner has been the quintessential divers’ watch since its introduction in 1953. Rolex gave it a rotatable graduated bezel, allowing divers to monitor their immersion and decompression time, as well as a contrasting black dial with luminescent hands and hour markers that emit a long-lasting blue glow. The Submariner’s streamlined and functional design would soon become iconic.

A legendary model among Rolex Professional watches, the Submariner gave a new dimension to underwater exploration and the conquest of the oceans before moving beyond marine depths to triumph on terra firma as the epitome of the watch of action. Today, waterproof to a depth of 300 metres (1,000 feet), this powerfully seductive watch is offered with or without date in a 40 mm case with a Cerachrom bezel insert in ceramic.



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### ▪ OYSTER PERPETUAL SEA-DWELLER

In 1967, Rolex developed the Oyster Perpetual Sea-Dweller, waterproof to a depth of 610 metres (2,000 feet), fitted with a helium escape valve. This valve, patented by Rolex, allows the gases that infiltrate the watch during deep-sea saturation diving to escape without damaging the watch when they dilate during the decompression stages in hyperbaric chambers. The watch was chosen as part of the equipment for the divers of Comex, the pioneer and world leader in industrial deep-sea diving, based in Marseille, France. In 1978, the Sea-Dweller 4000 was guaranteed waterproof to a depth of 1,220 metres (4,000 feet).

In 2017, to mark the model's 50th anniversary, Rolex introduced an updated version of this legendary divers' watch, featuring a larger, 43 mm case in Oystersteel, and equipped with calibre 3235, a new-generation mechanical movement at the forefront of watchmaking technology.

### ▪ OYSTER PERPETUAL ROLEX DEEPSEA

Waterproof to an extreme depth of 3,900 metres (12,800 feet), the Oyster Perpetual Rolex Deepsea joined the family of the brand's prestigious divers' watches and illustrates the supremacy of Rolex in mastering waterproofness. Presented in 2008 in a 44 mm case, the Rolex Deepsea exceeds the most exacting demands of professional divers in terms of robustness, precision and reliability, while featuring the aesthetic codes and the fundamental characteristics of the Oyster.

The Rolex Deepsea benefits from exclusive technical innovations such as the Ringlock System. This case architecture patented by Rolex consists of a slightly domed 5.5 mm-thick sapphire crystal, a high-performance nitrogen-alloyed steel compression ring, and a grade 5 titanium case back held tight against the compression ring by a screw-down Oystersteel ring. It enables the watch to resist the colossal pressure exerted by water at a depth of 3,900 metres, equivalent to a weight of approximately three tonnes on the crystal. Manufactured in exceptionally corrosion-resistant Oystersteel, the Rolex Deepsea is equipped with a unidirectional rotatable bezel with a graduated Cerachrom insert in ceramic and a Chromalight display with long-lasting luminescence.

### ▪ OYSTER PERPETUAL GMT-MASTER II

Emblematic traveller's watch, the Oyster Perpetual GMT-Master II is the successor to the GMT-Master created in 1955. It can show the time in two time zones simultaneously thanks to its 24-hour hand and rotatable bezel equipped with a 24-hour graduated Cerachrom insert in ceramic. Robust and resistant in its 40 mm Oyster case, featuring a Chromalight display with long-lasting luminescence, the GMT-Master II accompanies elegantly and with distinction all those who travel





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the world or whose activities span several time zones. In 2013, Rolex introduced single-piece Cerachrom bezel inserts in two colours on the GMT-Master II – a world first. Initially made in blue and black, then red and blue (2014), and more recently brown and black (2018), the two-colour Cerachrom blend the technical performance of the Cerachrom bezel with the iconic aesthetics of the original GMT-Master.

### ▪ OYSTER PERPETUAL AIR-KING

The new Air-King epitomizes Rolex's privileged ties with the world of aviation during its golden age in the 1930s. It was a period when spectacular progress in aircraft performance constantly expanded humanity's capacity to conquer the skies, and led to the introduction of long-distance flights. One of the pioneers of this era, English aviator Charles Douglas Barnard, set a number of flight records. Of the Oyster, he said: "The peculiar qualities of this Rolex watch render it eminently suitable for flying purposes and I propose to use it on all my long-distance flights in the future".

In 1933, Oyster watches accompanied the Houston Expedition as it made the first-ever flight over Mount Everest at an altitude exceeding 10,000 metres (33,000 feet) in extreme weather conditions. In 1934, Owen Cathcart-Jones and Ken Waller made a return voyage from London (United Kingdom) to Melbourne (Australia) in record time with a twin-engine De Havilland Comet, using a Rolex Oyster as their on-board chronometer. Today's new Air-King pays tribute to the pioneers of flight and the Oyster's role in the epic story of aviation. It features a distinctive black dial with a combination of large 3, 6 and 9 numerals marking the hours and a prominent minutes scale for navigational time readings.

### ▪ OYSTER PERPETUAL MILGAUSS

A watch inspired by science, the Oyster Perpetual Milgauss was a pioneering watch in terms of resistance to magnetic fields, which are a major source of interference for mechanical watch movements. It was originally worn by scientists at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva. Created in 1956, it was designed to resist up to 1,000 gauss (an old measurement of magnetic induction which corresponds to 80,000 A/m), thanks to a protective shield surrounding the movement. When relaunched in an updated version in 2007 in a 40 mm case, the hallmark seconds hand in the shape of a lightning bolt featured an orange coating.



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### ▪ OYSTER PERPETUAL COSMOGRAPH DAYTONA

A high-performance chronograph, the Oyster Perpetual Cosmograph Daytona was designed to meet the timing needs of racing drivers. Rolex placed a high-precision mechanical chronograph movement in its robust Oyster case to allow the wearer to measure time intervals and determine average speeds up to 400 miles or kilometres per hour. These additional functions are activated by pushers that screw down like the Oyster case's characteristic winding crown, ensuring waterproofness to a depth of 100 metres (330 feet). A tachymetric scale, which is used in combination with the central seconds hand to determine average speed over a given distance based on elapsed time, is engraved on the bezel to free space on the dial and offer optimal legibility for all functions. The name of this chronograph created in 1963 proclaims its affinity with the Daytona International Speedway in Florida, home of the famous Rolex 24 At Daytona® endurance race.

### ▪ OYSTER PERPETUAL YACHT-MASTER

The Oyster Perpetual Yacht-Master is the ideal watch for water sports and sailing in particular. Waterproof to a depth of 100 metres (330 feet) thanks to its Oyster case with a screw-down case back and winding crown, the Yacht-Master sports a highly legible dial with date magnified by a Cyclops lens. A bidirectional rotatable 60-minute graduated bezel allows timing of a distance covered, for example the sailing time between two buoys. With its raised numerals and graduations, the rotatable bezel in 18 ct Everose gold, in 950 platinum or with a Cerachrom insert in technical ceramic makes the Yacht-Master immediately recognizable. Just as at home at sea on the deck of a sailboat as on land in port, or in the elegant atmosphere of a yacht club lounge, this watch combining character and performance is the only Rolex Professional watch available in several sizes (37 and 40 mm).

### ▪ OYSTER PERPETUAL YACHT-MASTER II

A revolutionary regatta chronograph and distillation of Rolex technology, the Oyster Perpetual Yacht-Master II, presented in 2007, is the world's first watch to offer a programmable countdown with a mechanical memory and with the capacity for on-the-fly synchronization. In the crucial preparation phase before the start of a sailing race, these features make the Yacht-Master II the instrument of choice for skippers and yachting enthusiasts. Clad in a 44 mm Oyster case waterproof to a depth of 100 metres (330 feet), the Yacht-Master II is notable for its rotatable Ring Command bezel, whose interaction with the movement allows the wearer to program the countdown duration. This function underlines the importance of Rolex's integrated approach, with command of the know-how involved



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in the manufacture of all the components of its watches, from the movement to the case, bracelet and clasp.