

ADAGIO by Christophe Claret



HELIOS by Frédéric Jouvenot



**Brand launch** Not far from De Bethune, in another hotel suite, **Christophe Claret** has 'leaped ahead', we might say. After its remarkable Dual Tow introduced last year—the first piece that the constructor-manufacturer presented under his own name (he is also a partner with Thierry Oulevay at Jean Dunand)—and on the occasion of its 20th anniversary, Claret presented his second piece, the Adagio. He will introduce his third watch, which is apparently 'spectacular', at BaselWorld in March. Christophe Claret has launched his own brand.

The Adagio is a minute repeater with a large date and GMT, whose design is as pure and classic (and clothed in a suit of black onyx or lapis lazuli or white gold) as the Dual Tow was 'post-industrial' with its steel chenilles and pawls. Here, we find an elegant dial, with indications well distributed under deep golden openings. Does this represent the birth of a new Claret style? For the answer, see the next issue, the Europa Star Special BaselWorld 2011 edition.

### Sunbeams at the GTE

At the **GTE**, the sun was shining. That of **Frédéric Jouvenot**, winner of the GTE Super Watch Award given for his radiant Helios watch, is a sun composed of twelve sunbeams

that are shining at noon but dark at midnight. At the centre of the sun is a small circular module measuring 5mm in thickness and 12mm in diameter, from which emanate the 12 sunbeams representing the hours. This module, on which is attached the minute disc, includes a mechanism that causes the hour beams to pivot a half turn that corresponds to the hour to be shown. At noon, all the beams are golden, but then, hour after hour, they instantaneously pivot on themselves until all become dark at midnight. At 1 o'clock in the morning, the day begins again and the first sun beam begins to shine. At 1 o'clock in the afternoon, the first black beam appears.

A superb mechanical-poetic realization, the Helios offers an original way to read the time, both by using colour and mechanical animation, becoming thus a 24-hour instantaneous reading. For a young brand, this is a lovely masterpiece and in keeping with current trends since the sunbeam animation remains very pure and classic, in a delightful, lightweight and modern case. The finishing is also excellent (sides of the bezel finely engraved with a Grecian geometric frieze, reminiscent of the place where Frédéric Jouvenot first 'dreamed' of the Helios). To purchase this superb timekeeper, you will have to lay out CHF 49,000 for the DLC version and CHF 47,200 for the titanium

version. (We will look at Frédéric Jouvenot's watches in more detail in one of our next issues.) This year, the GTE brought together not less than 54 exhibitors, all independents but all different, offering a form of richness, we might have thought, if not for the fact that times are more and more difficult for the small players! (We will return to the changes that are restructuring the watchmaking landscape in our Retrospective-Perspective 2010/2011 to be published in our next issue, the Special BaselWorld edition.) It is impossible to detail all of the GTE exhibitors here, but we will take a look at a few, especially those in the mechanical domain.

Undeniably, the major buzz at the GTE was the presence of the new 'former' watchmaker, **Laurent Ferrier**. He is considered the new pope of great neoclassic timekeeping, with his 'secret tourbillon' hidden under a romantic night sky that is one of the most beautiful enamel pieces seen in Geneva during the week (the well-known Anita Porchet was the artist). We will also come back to this interesting timepiece at a later time.

Another watchmaker working in the classic sense appeared at the stand of a new brand whose name evokes its ambitions: **Heritage Watch Manufactory**. Created by a handful of investors centred around Christian Güntermann