

Frédéric Jouvenot

A different time

By Alice Swan



■ A new display in which each of the jumping hours rotating 180° depicts a ray of sunshine thanks to the manually-wound movement. At midnight, the Helios 'lights up' before continuing its progress towards dawn. CHF 5795



■ From the Solar Deity collection, the Helios model in titanium is available for CHF 47,830, the black DLC-coated titanium version for CHF 49,860. A gold version will be presented at BaselWorld. Each version is made in a limited edition of 144 pieces.



■ Automatic Chronograph Evolution
A chronograph with column wheel and central seconds, minute counter and subsidiary seconds. The calibre made in-house and by hand. CHF 79,800 in pink gold.

This year, Jouvenot Manufacture has provided seduction for both public and watchmaking professionals with its Helios timepiece and original display of time.

Having worked for ten years on complications for major brands, Frédéric Jouvenot has been able to build up an excellent reputation. Far from being satisfied with this, in 2008 he decided to jump into the adventure of independence, forming a partnership with Valérien Jaquet, a childhood friend. Together, and with other investors, they created Jouvenot Manufacture SA.

The firm dedicates itself to the design, conception and development of movements, the perfecting of complication and monitoring of production. In the near future, it will expand

to include a department responsible for assembling components and another offering after-sales service. Its timepieces are made in limited editions and their components are exclusively Swiss.

In 2009, Frédéric Jouvenot presented the Automatic Chronograph Evolution. Powered by the automatic chronograph calibre FJ-ACE-001, the first to be fitted with a complete rewinding system visible from the side of the dial and thus enabling a perfect visibility of the movement itself via the base of the watch.

This year, he offers a timepiece that should make history: the Helios. Inspiration came to him during a voyage in 2009 in Greece, with the sun venerated everywhere he went. He imagined a timepiece in which each of the 12 hours is a ray of sunshine, and without discs or hands,

an innovation that has been patented. It took months of development on a computer to succeed with this complication.

The minutes are at the centre of the dial, a little small for easy reading, but nevertheless present. At midday, all the rays sparkle. During the afternoon, the sun's rays are replaced, hour by hour, by a black ray, until midnight, when the dial lights up completely. This new reading of the time is quite intuitive and easy to sense, and the aesthetic result wholly seductive.

www.fjouvenot.com