



The manufacturing facility in Le Locle.

# Christophe Claret: a natural-born perfectionist

*20 years old: that's the age of the Manufacture Christophe Claret, one of the rare watch companies capable of creating, developing and ensuring the reliability of exclusive and ultra-complex movements. This company produces virtually nothing under its own name, but is considered to be one of the most prestigious movement makers in the business.*



Christophe Claret.

Christophe Claret. This name little known to the public at large belongs to an exceptional manufacturer that develops and produces highly complex movements for the great names in Swiss watchmaking. It was founded by a Frenchman from Lyon named Christophe Claret who, after spending his youth tinkering with mopeds, and subsequently with watches and clocks, decided to fulfil his passion for horology by coming to study in Geneva. He ended up founding his own company now established in Le Locle, in the magnificent Soleil d'Or manor house. The original mansion and new ultra-modern workshops are now linked by a steel and glass passage way symbolising the spirit of the company: namely a blend of time-honoured know-how and cutting-edge modern technologies.

Christophe Claret admits to being obsessive when it comes to perfection and meticulous organisation. 20 years ago, he was entrusted with a commission to develop a few models by Ulysse Nardin. And now he finds himself at the head of a company encompassing 115 highly qualified employees capable of producing around 46 exclusive calibres for around 20 different brands. His motto is "In watchmaking, everything has been done; everything has yet to be invented".

This passionately dedicated approach gives rise to magical chiming mechanisms, automatons, highly sophisticated movements, limited series and once-only creations forming an incredibly long and diverse list: chronographs with hour, quarter and minute repeater, with tourbillon and split-second function with disconnecting lever; bi-tourbillon with differential gear; shooting star with dual time-zone display; minute repeater, tourbillon, Westminster chime; perpetual calendars; musical mechanisms; planetary striking mechanisms and many more besides. All demand perfection on every level, which is why Christophe Claret also designed the architecture of his manufacturing facility with this in mind – not only by surrounding himself with top-class personnel, but also by offering them a working environment most conducive to their professional fulfilment; and by developing state-of-the-art machinery.



## THE DUALTOW, AN EXCEPTIONAL WATCH TO MARK THE 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The industrial orientation adopted by Christophe Claret naturally implies a relatively high degree of anonymity, but all that has changed in this anniversary year thanks to the production of a watch bearing the company name and called the DualTow. This object is quite simply breathtaking, both in terms of the complications it houses and of the way in which they are staged within a coherent aesthetic whole. In a nutshell, this stunning new model is a mechanical hand-wound single-pusher planetary-gear chronograph with striking mechanism and tourbillon. All the functions are distinguished from each other in one way or another. Protected by a patent, the driving system of the chronograph ensures there is no variation in regularity. A striking mechanism audibly marks the start, stop and reset operations of the said chronograph. Respectively positioned at 11 and 10 o'clock, the hour and minute functions are displayed on a sapphire crystal, while the seconds hand turns in the centre. This clever arrangement enables one to admire the entire trigger system composed of a column wheel, levers and hammers which, depending on one's personal imagination, can be compared with a flower blossoming or a spider spinning its web. Meanwhile, the tourbillon is also highlighted at 6 o'clock. Last but not least, the hours and minutes appearing on left and right display belts are an endlessly fascinating sight. One of the most fascinating timepieces of the year which vividly symbolises the Christophe Claret brand of know-how, patiently acquired and perfected over the past 20 years.

