

LIFESTYLE LIVING

VOLUME 7 | NO.7 | JUNE 2015 | ₹ 75



AIRCRAFT

jet, set, go!

ARCHITECTURE

living in style

FASHION

the zesty Zimmermann Collection

PROFILE

sassy tableware

PRECISION AND ARTISTRY REDEFINED

Handcrafted in Italy by master craftsmen, U Boat watches showcase ultimate precision and are works of art **SIMRAN MISHRA**

The U Boat story goes back to 1942, to the city of Lucca, in Italy, where Ilvo Fontana, crafter of precision engineering instruments, received a prestigious commission from the Italian Navy to design and manufacture watches especially for the Navy. This challenge meant satisfying the high-quality standards of the Navy and respecting precise technical

specifications, but above all, guaranteeing maximum visibility and reliability in any light and weather conditions. However, circumstances at that time did not allow the project to materialise.

In 2000, Italo Fontana, Ilvo's dynamic grandson, came across the sheaf of documents regarding the project for the manufacture of watches for the Navy. This soon became his



source of inspiration for the creation of the first U boat watch and his new dimension in time. The idea and inspiration behind the watch was to break the rules, change the system, to have a new identity, unique, and lifestyle. Shares Fontana, "Every single U Boat timepiece is handcrafted in Italy by master craftsmen dedicated to the highest levels of precision engineering and finishing, where care and attention to details span the entire process, from the very first prototype to the final assemblage of the watch. A 'Made in Italy' in all details."

The brand has as many as 60 different pieces and each piece is a work of art. The designs are modified according to request, with the use of selected materials and specific treatment. All U-Boat watches can be distinguished by the large crown on the left of the watch and many of them by their technical specifications, which make it possible for them to be resistant under the most extreme conditions. The constant features that encompass all the U-Boat collections are their quality, the selection of materials and the craftsmanship, and then, of course, the "Made in Tuscany" factor. It's no wonder that a bevy of Hollywood celebrities, sports personalities and music artists wear U-Boat.

Says Fontana, "We are looking for a new distributor in India and are keen to open more flagship stores and add to the existing 18 across the globe. Our main markets are in the US, Russia and Asia. India is new, up from the growth structure last year." The latest novelties of U Boat showcased at Baselworld 2015 include the Chimera family and Capsule watches.

CHIMERA CHRONO BRONZE 46MOVEMENT

Top Soigné with black screws, rhodium plated, automatic mechanical chronograph personalised to U-Boat specifications for date display and stem to be positioned at 9 o'clock. Frequency: 28.800 vibrations per hour, 4 Hz. Power reserve: 44 hours. 25 jewels. Height: 7 mm.

The case is naturally bronze aged, 46 mm in diameter, 54, 60 mm diameter, including external crown-clutter. The bezel and the back of the case are locked together by external tubing and a customised key that ensures absolute water resistance. The Chimera has two superimposed dials, one treated with composite pigments and laser cut on the counters and hours, the other in matt bronze colour, azuré finishing on the small seconds and minutes counter, cut and printed. Water resistant to 100m., 10 ATM.

CAPSULE BE/BR-50

At Baselworld, U-Boat unveils Capsule, the latest creation designed by Italo Fontana, inspired directly by the first undersea exploration modules. Fascinated by depth gauges made in the early 1930s, Italo designed this watch with their characteristic features in mind, from the rounded shape to the porthole windows, with water pressure resistant glass to ensure that the people inside the cabin survived the dive. These spherical portholes made from strong glass were clamped to the outside surface of the capsule using a system of levers to ensure water resistance.

The Capsule uses a patented system to clamp the glass to the grade 5 titanium case, featuring a system of external fixing levers guaranteed to withstand the pressure exerted by both outside and inside agents. The two main levers, blocked in place by a third one positioned at 3 o'clock and by special safety screws, press the domed glass in hesalite against the waterproof gasket beneath. This system secures the watch in the event of pressure changes. The entire process of opening and removing the glass can be performed without dismantling any of the watch's main components (usually the bezel must be removed), but only the glass. Limited Edition of 288 pieces, the watch will come in two different versions: with black and beige colour dial, respectively. Water resistance: 100m., 10 ATM.

