

# WatchPro

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BRITAIN'S MOST INFLUENTIAL WATCH TITLE

**THE BIG INTERVIEW**  
Beaverbrooks bounces back from 2020's existential threat

**BUSINESS BRIEFING**  
AUDEMARS PIGUET CHIEF EXEC SAYS HE NO LONGER NEEDS STORES TO SELL WATCHES



## UP PERISCOPE AT U-BOAT

CEO Italo Fontana has battled stormy seas and is now setting sights on calmer waters for his oversized Italian watch brand







both consistency and innovation is perfectly illustrated in the key watches launched by U-Boat this year. Uniqueness is seen in the multi-coloured mother of pearl dials of the Rainbow collection; rarely used bronze is chosen as a case uniqueness is delivered in a blood watch.

Mr Fontana clearly has a vivid imagination that conjures watch designs that are unafraid to challenge convention.

oil, similar in concept to the artisan watchmaker Ressence, which makes a tiny number of watches priced at the idea and delivers it in watches priced closer to £1,500.

family this year with a sub-collection called Dark Moon – a reference to the blackness of their dials being like the dark side of the moon – and with a blood red and black model. Mr Fontana channelling his inner werewolf, perhaps.

quartz movements, lubricated in their bath of oil, in 44mm steel cases. sit under curved red mineral glass

capacity so there is a constantly dancing bubble of air under the and one without. Either can be worn on matching steel bracelets or on a rubber strap.

Other Dark Moon watches for steel models with beige numerals, a that might be worn by a lady, and a leather strap.

U-Boat is comfortable to say that its customer base is mainly men aged between 25 and 50 years-old, but women are not forgotten and this year have an especially striking watch in the form of the multi-coloured Rainbow collection.

At U-Boat, even the physically unalterable colours of a rainbow have been subverted by Mr Fontana as he designed mother of pearl dials that sometimes darken from pink to green and other times transform from azure to mauve or orange to violet.

stainless steel models, all using number of steel treatments are used on cases and Milanese bracelets number of colourful leather straps are also offered.

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20th anniversary year is a version watch in bronze, which Mr Fontana says is a nod to diving equipment worn by the earliest divers and a direct link back to his grandfather's commission in 1942.

Bronze is highly resistant to seawater and to corrosion and harder than stainless steel and iron by watchmakers because its colour evolves over time with patina that means every piece becomes unique.

unidirectional bezel framing a three-level dial where oversized from beneath the black face. It is on an aged leather strap.

Above: Uboat's Capsoil Dark Moon and Dark Moon Red; the Rainbow and the Sommerso professional dive watch in bronze.