

Right track

Girard-Perregaux's third watch in collaboration with Aston Martin takes inspiration from Formula 1®

WORDS Charlotte McManus

Girard-Perregaux, now in its second year as Aston Martin's Official Watch Partner, has just released its third luxury timepiece produced in collaboration with the marque—the Laureato Absolute Chronograph Aston Martin F1 Edition. While 2021 saw the launch of two watches that celebrated design heritage and road cars, respectively, this new model is the first to be produced alongside the Aston Martin Aramco Cognizant Formula One™ Team, making it a purely racing-focused concept.

In the exhilarating world of Formula 1®, a fraction of a second can make all the difference to the final outcome, so initial discussions between the two brands saw materials emerge as a central inspiration. Informed by Aston Martin's unparalleled knowledge of ultra-lightweight substances, the Laureato Absolute Chronograph Aston Martin F1 Edition is crafted with a cutting-edge 44mm titanium and carbon case, using elements taken from two Formula 1® race cars used during the 2021 season — a first for the watch industry.

"Materials are key with this new edition," says Clémence Dubois, Chief Marketing and Product Officer at Girard-Perregaux. "We were able to use carbon from the Formula 1® cars to build the case of the watch and reach the same level of performance on the wrist, with the same spirit of cutting-edge experimentation as Formula 1®."

Of course, creating such an advanced case wasn't without its complexities, not least the high-tech processes involved, necessitating extensive research and specialised equipment to ensure the components would be compatible.

"We had to work with very fine titanium powder to ensure adequate mixing with both the carbon and a tinted green resin," explains Dubois. "Another challenge was in finding the very subtle dosage of the various materials, both for their molecular strength and for the overall aesthetics of





the final product. As a result of this specific process, every watch will look different and have its own identity."

Other racing-themed features include a dial in Aston Martin Racing Green and crosshatching motifs applied as a tribute to the marque's iconic 1921 AM badge. In another world first, the technical GP rubber alloy watch strap features FKM rubber and carbon elements, also sourced from the two 2021 Formula 1® cars.

The Laureato Absolute Chronograph Aston Martin F1 Edition, available worldwide at Girard-Perregaux retailers, is limited to just 306 pieces. This reflects the distance in kilometres that Sebastian Vettel and Lance Stroll aim to cover at the 2022 British Grand Prix, completing 52 laps of the 5.891km track at Silverstone. *girard-perregaux.com*

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