Introducing: Genus GNS1.2 Watch

By

Watches can get pretty complicated sometimes, enough that you might need a little bit of schooling in horology to really get how they work. On the other hand, even a watchmaking degree might not help when it comes to the Genus GNS1.2, one of the craziest watches around.

Sébastien Billières, the watchmaker behind the watch is a mad genius and a supremely talented one at that. It's a watch that, while at first glance is all but impossible to understand, is far simpler to read than you might expect.

The hours, for example, are simple read off a rotating inner bezel at 9 o'clock. Then again, the numerals rotate themselves to ensure they're always the right way up when you look at the watch. Necessary? Not at all. Impressive? Damn right.

Then there are the minutes, which are spread across two separate indicators. The open main dial of the watch is taken up by a rolling serpent of lume-covered triangles that makes a figure of 8 around two blue steel discs set with numerals. This is shows you which ten minutes it is. For the accurate number, there's a disc at 3 o'clock that tells you the precise minute.

It sounds like a lot to comprehend and yes, it's nuts. Reading it though is simply a case of reading left to right. You read off the hour at 9, use the head of the snake to tell you where it's 20 past or 30 past and lastly the minutes on the disc. It's harder to explain than it is to do.

That complex nature is paired with a design like a science experiment gone haywire, all sharp, blued steel and moving parts without a dial to get in the way. The 43mm white gold case is well-sized for what it is – some watchmakers would be tempted to go a little bit bigger even – and encompasses the obviously in-house manually-winding Caliber GNS1.2.

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Price & Specs:

Model Name: Genus GNS1.2

Ref: GNS1.2WG

Case/Dial: 43mm diameter x 13.1mm thickness, 18K white gold, crown featuring the brand name G-E-N-U-S

Movement: Hand-wound manufacture caliber

Power Reserve: 50h

Frequency: 18,000 vph (2.5 Hz)

Functions: Hours, ten minute intervals indicated by orbiting elements, precise minutes indicated by a small fixed, arrow-shaped index at 3:00

Strap: Navy blue calfskin with "boot maker's finish", hand sewn

(Leather strap sourced through ethical supply chain, with certified traceability), pin buckle in 18K white gold, engraved with the GENUS logo
Price: CHF 310'700 (including VAT), limited edition of 8 pieces

More details at www.genuswatches.swiss