



MICRO MONDAYS

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The Duke Clarity Tourbillon is a luxurious Luxembourgish salute to Genta watchmaking

Luxembourg and Switzerland have a lot in common. Both are tiny, very rich European tax havens that sit at the crossroads of great European powers. They're both slightly inscrutable, quirky little countries, known for being homes of wealth and luxury. Yet unlike Switzerland, which is the heart of the world's watch industry, surprisingly few watch brands call Luxembourg home (even though Luxembourg was the birthplace of Jean-Claude Biver, one of the industry's most influential figures). That's why Duke, and their first-ever model, the Clarity Tourbillon, is such an intriguing prospect. Boasting a familiar octagonal form housing an innovative in-house movement, it's a bold first attempt from a brand (and country) little known to the world.

The case



Designed by Alessio Muller, one half of the father-and-son team that founded Duke, the Clarity Tourbillon's 44mm octagonal case demonstrably owes much to the legendary designs of Gérald Genta – yet it's by no means derivative. Its case features a novel sandwiched construction, with a bezel, backplate and lugs crafted from grade 5 titanium plus a middle section crafted from titanium-infused carbon fibre.

The dial



The dial of the Duke Clarity Tourbillon is the main event, though. Crafted from tinted shot-blasted sapphire with a large 100-degree opening at 6 o'clock to highlight the *tourbillon*, it's completely featureless, save for the Duke logo at 12 o'clock. The tourbillon is undeniably the star of the show.



The opening has been hand-softened at its edges to create a seamless look, while a mirror-polished 18k white gold flange frames the stark dial, with skeletonised hands adding to the ultra-modern look.

The movement



Well, I say the dial is the main event – really, it's the Clarity Tourbillon's movement. Designed in collaboration with legendary master watchmaker *Vianney Halter*, the Duke Clarity Tourbillon is powered by the in-house Calibre 9600, an automatic-winding flying tourbillon movement (who would've guessed?) with double sapphire bridges, which makes the tourbillon appear truly weightless.

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VIEW

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