

The Zenith Defy
Skyline comes in a 41mm steel octagonal case, completed with a steel bracelet or rubber strap



WALK THE LINES

The Zenith Defy Skyline presents the watchmaker's precision timekeeping in a sleek and sophisticated new package

WORDS: ELEANOR PRYOR

Zenith's Defy can trace its origins back to 1902, when the watchmaker introduced its "DEFI" line of rugged pocket watches. It would lay the foundation for the collection launched in 1969, so renowned for its robust construction that it would earn the nickname "coffre-fort", French for vault or safe.

More recently, the family has housed some of Zenith's most ambitious timekeeping, including some of its advanced pieces of haute horlogerie. And its look is just as cutting-edge, its use of architectural forms and crisp lines lending a slick sartorial edge to this sporty watch.

The latest addition, the Defy Skyline, marks something of a departure from the complex models seen before. A seemingly simple three-hander, with discreet date at 3 o'clock, it makes just as much of an impact with its clean design and carefully composed design details. Underneath lies Zenith's technical and precise new El Primero 3620 movement. Beating at 36,000vph, it powers the 1/10th of a second counter positioned at 9 o'clock, which completes one revolution every 10 seconds.

This contemporary approach is echoed in the timepiece's sleek,



modern form. It makes use of the octagonal geometry of the first Defy pieces with its angular case and faceted bezel, reimagined to have 12 sides to correspond to the hour markers.

Perhaps its most captivating feature is the dial, with its aesthetically pleasing pattern of perfectly aligned four-pointed stars, inspired by the Zenith "double Z" logo of the 1960s. It comes in three dial colours – silver, blue and black – presented on a sophisticated steel bracelet or with a sportier rubber strap in a complementary colour. £7,100; zenith-watches.com

Omega's Speedmaster may be best known as the watch that went to the moon, indeed accompanying astronauts on all six lunar landings. But before playing its part in the space race, it proved its credentials on land. Launched in 1957, and designed for professional racing drivers, it revolutionised the development of chronographs. This included its innovative debut of the tachymeter scale on the bezel, as opposed to the dial, which was perfect for precision timing on the track. For its latest outing, Omega looks to the original model for a sleek new take that is heavy on vintage charm.

As that influential first release, the CK2915-1, reaches its 65th birthday, Omega pays tribute to some of its most beloved features. Connoisseurs will notice the Naiad symbol on the crown, used to denote water resistance, while the deep black onyx dial includes a vintage Omega logo including typography featuring an oval 'O', as also seen on those early watches. Even more special is the Calibre 321 at the heart of the timepiece, which follows the specifications of the movement not only used in the original Speedmaster, but those that powered the watches used on the legendary Apollo missions.

Elsewhere, these heritage influences have been brought up to date. The famous tachymeter scale has been filled with a black Grand Feu enamel in a painstaking process. Meanwhile, the 38.6mm case has been crafted in 18ct Canopus Gold, Omega's exclusive white-gold alloy that brings an alluring brilliance to its finish while retaining robust qualities. Finishing the homage in style is the engraving of Omega's iconic seahorse on the sapphire-crystal glass on the rear. £69,500; omegawatches.com

The new Omega Speedmaster is presented in a special wooden box resembling the one its original customers received in 1957



RACING THROUGH TIME

A legendary Omega timepiece makes its return in this handsome new Speedmaster packed with vintage charm

WORDS: ELEANOR PRYOR