

Cutting-edge technologies meet time-honored craftsmanship at Roger Dubuis. Facing page: Jean-Marc Pontroue.



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CARBONATED

Roger Dubuis is set to wow again at this year's Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie with yet another unusual debut.

By HO YUN KUAN



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Since its debut in 2005, Roger Dubuis' Excalibur has been the poster child of the brand, representing, with its bold designs, unusual use of materials and avant-garde complications, the aesthetic and technical innovations that the brand is renowned for. From extreme skeletonisation to carrying double flying tourbillons and four sprung balances, the collection is the hotbed of experimentation for Roger Dubuis' imaginative watchmakers.

The timepiece is set to steal the spotlight once again at this year's Salon International de la Haute Horlogerie (SIHH). The Excalibur Spider Full Carbon will be the first watch to carry a calibre – the Astral Skeleton flying tourbillon movement RD509SQ – with a carbon plate, bridges and tourbillon upper cage. And as if carving components out of carbon wasn't challenging enough, Roger Dubuis' watchmakers have also skeletonised the movement, giving it the recognisable star motif that

has become a signature of the Spider series. The movement is shown off on a honeycombed background, which was inspired by the pattern of radiator grilles on automobiles.

Protecting the unusual movement is a DLC-treated titanium crown, caseback rim and 'container', combined with a case of multi-layered carbon. The

container is what Roger Dubuis calls the sealed portion of the case that protects the movement from dust and water, required because the rest of the case is skeletonised and not equipped to do so. The carbon used in this timepiece is T700 carbon, a type of carbon fibre by American manufacturer Toray known for its high tensile strength. Thinner and lighter, yet eight per cent less porous than other types of carbon, it reduces overall weight by about 30 per cent, and lowers vibrations from the mechanism, therefore enhancing precision. As a 100 per cent Poinçon de Genève-certified brand, Roger Dubuis' movements are always beautifully finished; this carbon one is no exception, and flaunts perfectly bevelled edges on the calibre plate and bridges.

Says Roger Dubuis' CEO Jean-Marc Pontroue: “We challenge ourselves to unveil a world premiere at every SIHH, be it a new material or innovation in watchmaking. The Excalibur Spider Full Carbon is part of our philosophy of always

Geneva-based Roger Dubuis is well-known as an avant-garde brand that realises some of the more daring concepts under the aegis of the Richemont group.

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seeking for what's next and pushing the boundaries of what can be done."

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Only 28 pieces are available in Roger Dubuis boutiques worldwide.

www.rogerdubuis.com

