

Press release

20th March 2015

Armin Strom Cognac Watch – the first watch with a drop of 1762 Gautier Cognac has been launched at BaselWorld

Swiss Independent Watch Manufacture Armin Strom has released the Cognac Watch, a wristwatch with a drop of the world's oldest cognac. This unusual project premiered at the BaselWorld 2016 fair. The limited edition consists of only 40 timepieces and was made especially for the clients of Wealth Solutions.

On 20th March 2016, during the BaselWorld 2016 fair, Armin Strom and Wealth Solutions presented a limited edition of wristwatches with a drop of the oldest cognac ever sold at a public auction. Swiss independent watch manufacture Armin Strom, well recognized for its unusual and innovative products, has designed a special capsule for this antique liquor and a safe way of inserting it into the interior of a mechanical watch. Wealth Solutions, a company which is an art advisor and specialist in providing rare and unique spirits for collectors, has sacrificed one of its the most precious treasures – a bottle of Gautier Cognac from 1762. Thanks to this cooperation, the Cognac Watch was born – the first Swiss wristwatch with the drop of alcohol. The mission to design and create the Cognac Watch was accepted by Claude Greisler, Armin Strom's chief horologist. He devised a concept of a special sapphire crystal capsule and positioned it at 5 o'clock.

The beverage used in this project is not just a rare liqueur. This cognac comes from year 1762. It is a time capsule. It is 250 years closed in a bottle. This alcoholic beverage was purchased by Wealth Solutions in 2014 during an auction of rare wines and liquors organized by Bonhams Fine Art Auctioneers & Valuers in NYC. The Gautier cognac bottle dating back to 1762 was, during the event, granted the title of the oldest cognac sold at a public auction to-date. It was opened in Poland on 4th November 2015 to mark the commencement of co-operation between Wealth Solutions and Armin Strom.

- *This bottle comes from the time of Louis XV and George III, pre-revolutionary France. It connects us to 18th-century Cognac and shows us a liquor, which today could not be produced. Normally we can only read about this long forgotten world in history books, but today we have the opportunity to touch it. It is something, which could happen only once in our life and this time is now.* – said Edward Bates, educator of the Bureau National Interprofessionnel du Cognac.

The watch, a manual wind with a five-day power reserve, was produced in stainless steel (30 pieces), 18k rose gold (8 pieces) and titanium cases (2 pieces). On the reverse, a hand-engraved design of a bunch of grapes decorates the base plate. The demand for Armin Strom Cognac Watch has been such that all timepieces were sold by Wealth Solutions in presale before the official launch.

- *We always try to deliver uniqueness and rarity to our clients who – which is no surprise – love watches as much as they love old liquors. The idea of adding drop of the world's oldest cognac to a watch, which itself is a piece of micromechanical art, perfectly fits our philosophy. Serge Michel and Claude Greisler shared our enthusiasm and brought this idea to life. The fact that this watch was sold even before it was officially presented proves that we both made a great job.* – said Maciej Kossowski, President of Wealth Solutions.

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About Armin Strom Manufacture

Independent Swiss watch manufacturer Armin Strom's philosophy honours the most important part of any timepiece - its movement. Unlike most brands, Armin Strom conceives and engineers its watches with the more intricate side of the calibre on top, and showcases the horologic artistry by exposing the working timekeeping elements. Because this reveals the interior, the calibre's design is paramount to the overall look of the timepiece.

ARMIN STROM is a full-scale vertical manufacture, with two dozen employees and all master trades involved in the design and production of movements orchestrated in the facility in Biel/Bienne.

Another distinguishing feature of Armin Strom's watches is the engraving on the mechanism's components which is extremely precise and, naturally, hand-made. The Armin Strom Cognac Watch displays a brilliant example of this watchmaking art.

Armin Strom founded the company in 1967 in Burgdorf, Switzerland. Because of his exceptional skill as watchmaker, he earned acclaim as a master skeletonizer. In 1991, Armin Strom was recorded in the Guinness Book of Records for the smallest hand skeletonized ladies watch, which still remains unsurpassed today.

Strom sold the company to the Michel family in 2006 and retired in 2011. By focusing on open-worked and skeleton designs, owner Serge Michel and director and chief horologist Claude Greisler are extending Mr. Strom's legacy while leading the company into a new era. They transformed the company's capabilities by establishing a state-of-the-art manufacturing premises in 2008, allowing Armin Strom to develop and produce its own in-house movements.

More information: www.arminstrom.com

About Wealth Solutions

Wealth Solutions was established in 2007 with a mission to provide unique products for collectors. The company was created by real enthusiasts of exceptional goods such as fine Bordeaux wines, top quality whisky, and art. Over the past eight years, more than 7000 clients have trusted Wealth Solutions by purchasing top quality collectibles and using the company's expertise.

In 2012, Wealth Solutions had the exclusive privilege to introduce the Glenfarclas 1953 58 YO single cask whisky. The cask no. 1674 was selected by a panel including George Grant, successor of Glenfarclas, and Serge Valentin – one of the most important whisky reviewers in the world. In 2013, Wealth Solutions and Number One Drinks Company introduced an exceptional 48-year-old Japanese whisky from the Karuizawa Distillery. Cask #3603, filled in 1964, is one of the oldest Japanese single malt whiskies in history. In 2014, Wealth Solutions, thanks to its partnership with Gordon & MacPhail, was proud to present one of the world's oldest whiskies to the public. The beverage was produced in 1948 within the walls of the Glen Grant distillery, then matured in a cask no. 1369 and bottled after 66 years by Gordon & MacPhail. One year later Wealth Solutions had the exclusive privilege to introduce Gordon & MacPhail Glen Grant 1950 65 YO.

In 2014 Wealth Solutions and the Tiffon Cognac House introduced a limited edition of L'esprit de Tiffon cognac. This fully pre-phylloxera beverage was created from distillates, where the oldest cognac dates back to 1805. In 2015 the Bache-Gabrielsen cognac house and Wealth Solutions launched a limited edition of Le Sein de Dieu cognac - totally pre-phylloxera beverage, with the oldest component dating back to 1790. All listed special releases were specially created for the clients of the Wealth Solutions company.

More information: www.wealth.pl/projects

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