



**TW STEEL** If a general reluctance to spend a four-figure sum on the products of one of the better-known brands has kept you on the sidelines of the big watch trend, TW Steel might be able of assistance. This all-new, Dutch-based company only deals in big, statement-making timepieces with case diameters of up to 50mm. Its TW 21 is a simple, three-handed watch with date window and a so-called canteen crown which is quite clearly inspired by the design Panerai patented during the Thirties, as is the TW 21's riveted leather strap. The brand's insistence that size does matter means other models in the line-up are called Grandeur and Goliath – the Grandeur Swiss Edition has a decent-quality mechanical movement, although most models in the range are quartz-powered.  
From £450 ([twsteel.com](http://twsteel.com))

**VILLEMONT** Founded in 2004, Villemont makes uncomplicated but beautifully finished watches. This year, the brand merged with the Norwegian watch company Amundsen Oslo, which was set up five years ago by a relative of polar explorer Roald Amundsen. An Amundsen watch that was buned at the North Pole in 2004 was discovered by a young boy, washed up on a beach in the Faroe Islands. The first fruit of the Villemont-Amundsen collaboration is the Solar Navigator which features a mechanical system that aligns the red 'soleil' arrow with the time, causing the compass hand to point to the location of the sun. Available in red gold, titanium or stainless steel.  
From £4,500 - £10,000 ([villemont.ch](http://villemont.ch))

**MANOMETRO** Italian linguists will recognise the word 'manometro' as meaning 'pressure gauge', which is exactly what these watches, created by designer Giuliano Mazzuoli, are intended to look like. Introduced in 2004, the steel case of the Manometro watch measures an imposing 45mm in diameter and is 15mm thick, with a large crown at the two o'clock position. An 'S' version of the watch made from carbon fibre and titanium is available, as well as a chronograph and a limited edition in rose gold. The latest model to join the line-up is the Contagiri, styled on the rev counter fitted to the new Alfa Romeo 8C supercar.  
From £1,800 - £13,000 ([giulianomazzuoli.com](http://giulianomazzuoli.com))