

PRESS RELEASE

Phillips to Offer One-of-a-Kind Philippe Dufour Grande & Petite Sonnerie as the Star Lot of The New York Watch Auction: XI

A Unique Sapphire Dial Example of the Brand's Rarest and Most Prestigious Model, and One of the Most Important Timepieces Ever Made

Estimated in Excess of \$2 Million, the Highest Estimate Ever Assigned to a Watch Offered at Phillips New York



Philippe Dufour
Grande & Petite Sonnerie
Estimate: In excess of \$2 million

NEW YORK – 17 OCTOBER 2024 – This December, Phillips in Association with Bacs & Russo is proud to offer what can be considered the most important wristwatch by Philippe Dufour ever to appear at auction — a unique, previously unknown Grande & Petite Sonnerie minute repeating wristwatch with open dial made of transparent sapphire crystal. Completely unique and one of only three open-dial examples of the model in existence; it is also the first of its kind to be offered for sale publicly. Featured as the star lot of The New York Watch Auction: XI on 7-8 December, the watch is expected to realize in excess of \$2 million, the highest estimate ever assigned to a timepiece at Phillips New York. With this announcement, Phillips is proud to confirm that exceptional examples of all three of Philippe Dufour's

wristwatch models will be offered together in one season. A unique Duality with serial number 10 will be offered in Geneva on 8 November during Reloaded: The Rebirth of Mechanical Watchmaking, 1980-1999, and a 37mm Simplicity in 18 karat rose gold will be offered in addition to the Grande & Petite Sonnerie in The New York Watch Auction: XI.

Paul Boutros, Deputy Chairman and Head of Watches, Americas, said, “Introduced in 1992, Philippe Dufour’s Grande & Petite Sonnerie model was the world’s first wristwatch with these complications — a milestone achievement in the history of watchmaking. Since the watch’s introduction 33 years ago, astonishingly, only eight examples have ever been produced, making it the rarest Dufour wristwatch model. Of these eight examples, only three were made with an open dial allowing the striking mechanism to be viewed at all times. The watch that Phillips has the privilege of offering this December, No. 07, is a completely unique open dial example, and the only one ever fitted within Dufour’s half-hunter case – the most elaborate case ever offered by Philippe Dufour. The Grande & Petite Sonnerie being offered during Phillips’ New York Watch Auction: XI sale can be considered not only one of the most important Philippe Dufour watches ever made, but also, one of the world’s most important timepieces across all brands and eras. It is a magnificent and groundbreaking timepiece representing the pinnacle of hand-made horological artistry.”



Over his entire career, Philippe Dufour has only produced approximately 250 watches in total, making any of his exquisitely finished timepieces extremely rare and sought after. After years of working with prestigious watchmakers, master watchmaker Philippe Dufour set out to create timepieces under his own name. Recognizing the need to stand out, Dufour embarked on a revolutionary journey to craft the world's first-ever Grande & Petite Sonnerie wristwatch.

Building on his prior work, which included the creation of five Grande & Petite Sonnerie pocket watches for Audemars Piguet, Dufour successfully miniaturized this intricate mechanism for the wrist. Every element of Dufour’s watches reflects his dedication to tradition and craftsmanship. From hand-finished Geneva stripes to mirror-polished bevels, every component showcases painstaking detail. This commitment is evident in his 1992 debut of the Grande & Petite Sonnerie wristwatch with a grand feu enamel dial and hinged caseback, and his 1999 release of an open, sapphire crystal dial version, offering a view of the movement from both sides.

The watch is comprised of over 480 hand-finished parts and, despite its complexity, is designed for ease of use, featuring intuitive controls for winding and setting the chimes. The case architecture is Dufour’s most elaborate and coveted, with the slides that activate the sonnerie placed on the side of the case, and a solid, hunter-style, hinged caseback that permits the owner to easily reveal and admire the hidden movement easily. The No. 7 Grande & Petite Sonnerie is the only example ever made with an open dial and hinged caseback.

The Dufour Grande & Petite Sonnerie is the rarest and most complicated of all models ever made by Philippe Dufour. With the present unique example being the only one combining the early style hunter case and sapphire crystal “open” dial – it is most certainly amongst the most important timepieces ever produced. Offered by the original owner, this watch is preserved in exemplary condition with its original certificate and presentation box.

Auction: 7-8 December 2024

Auction viewing: 4-6 December 2024

Location: 432 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022

ABOUT PHILLIPS IN ASSOCIATION WITH BACS & RUSSO

The team of specialists at Phillips Watches is dedicated to an uncompromised approach to quality, transparency, and client service. Phillips in Association with Bacs & Russo holds the world record for the most successful watch auction, with its Geneva Watch Auction: XIV having realized \$74.5 million in 2021. 2023 marked the second most successful year for Phillips in Association with Bacs & Russo with an annual total of \$215.8 million.

Record-breaking prices include:

1. Paul Newman's Rolex "Paul Newman" Daytona reference 6239 (CHF 17,709,894 / US\$17,752,500) – New York Auction: Winning Icons – 26 October 2017 – Highest result ever achieved for any vintage wristwatch at auction.
2. Patek Philippe reference 1518 in stainless steel (CHF 11,020,000 / US\$11,112,020) – Geneva Watch Auction: FOUR – 12 November 2016 – Highest result ever achieved for a vintage Patek Philippe wristwatch at auction.

ABOUT PHILLIPS

Phillips: where the world's curious and bold connect with the art, design, and luxury that inspires them. As a leading global platform for buying and selling 20th and 21st century works, Phillips offers dedicated expertise in the areas of Modern and Contemporary Art, Design, Photographs, Editions, Watches, and Jewels. Auctions and exhibitions are primarily held in New York, London, Geneva, and Hong Kong, with representative offices based throughout Europe, the United States, and Asia. Phillips offers a regular selection of live and online auctions, along with items available for immediate purchase. Phillips also offers a range of services and advice on all aspects of collecting, including private sales and assistance with appraisals, valuations, and financial planning.

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**Estimates do not include buyer's premium; prices achieved include the hammer price plus buyer's premium.*

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