

BREGUET MARINE ALARME MUSICALE 5547



Breguet chimes in with a remarkably useful and handsome watch: the new Marine Alarme Musicale. Alongside Globe-Trotter luggage, a Mason Pearson pocket size hairbrush, a sterling silver hip flask, and Aesop's Ginger Flight Therapy oil, Breguet's new Marine Alarme Musicale 5547 is a solid contender for the well-heeled individual's perfect travel accessory.

A sports watch from the recently rebooted Marine collection, the Breguet 5547's standout features are its alarm, date and second-time zone complications. The alarm is easily set using the crown at 4 o'clock and sub-dial at 3 o'clock, and is activated or muted using the 7 o'clock pusher. A power reserve indicator for the alarm sits between 9 and 12 o'clock while a window beneath the dial's Breguet signature displays a bell symbol when the alarm is active.

Sadly, the alarm complication is seldom used elsewhere in modern watchmaking. But it's surely something any weary traveller would appreciate and find far more uplifting than an iPhone's hideous alert tones when springing into action for a connecting flight.

Aside the common date, second-time zone indication is pretty much the only complication in the charmingly antiquated field of haute horology that still finds regular, practical real-world use. Alongside the obvious pragmatic benefits of having the time in two places at a glance of the wrist, it has been established that keeping track of both local and home time when travelling can help acclimatise sleep patterns and stave off the dreaded jet lag.

The 5547 is available with a 40mm case in either white-gold, rose-gold or titanium and houses an automatic manufacture movement with a power reserve of 45 hours. The white and rose-gold versions are paired, respectively, with blue and silvered dials bearing an engine-turned guilloché wave pattern while the titanium presents a more conservative grey dial with sunburst decoration. As with the rest of the current Marine collection, the

signature hour and minute 'Breguet hands' have been carefully tweaked to include thicker modern lines and Super-Lumi Nova to provide visibility in low and no-light conditions. The negative recesses in the raised Roman hour markers have also been filled with Super-LumiNova, giving them an unusual but attractive look of modernity.

Supplied with either a rubber or alligator-leather strap, each case/dial combination certainly has its merits. Personally, I'd recommend the titanium – it's lighter and more durable than its gold counterparts, transmits a louder alarm ring thanks to titanium's low metal density, and I like the less particular but nonetheless smart-looking dial on this watch.

The Marine series was launched in the 1990s as a forum for Breguet's most progressive watches. Expressing the company's esteemed history and core values in a manner relevant to the modern high-end watch consumer, Marine also pays homage to namesake founder Abraham-Louis Breguet's appointment as horloger de la Marine royale (watchmaker to the French Navy) by King Louis XVIII in 1815, a position he held until his death.

Its strong directive in mind, one couldn't help but feel the Marine series had become a little overlooked until its revamp last year with the launch of the running Équation Marchante 5887. Building on the success of the 5887 and the tweaked collection-defining design cues it set out, the 5547 and its 2018 Marine stable mates (the 5517 'three-hander' and the 5527 chronograph) have helped consolidate Marine's position in both the Breguet catalogue and in the mind of Breguet's clientele. And, on a more corporate level, this year also saw Breguet announce Marine as the collection to spearhead its new partnership with charity Race for Water dedicated to quelling ocean plastic pollution.

With its reaffirmed stance, it looks to be a very exciting future for Breguet's Marine watches. POA

By Alan Seymour