

Best Men's Wristwatches

I can remember each wristwatch I ever owned. For most of my life I was in love with watches. The first watch I owned was a Timex, I was about 7 years old, I was so proud of it and a week later I discovered it wasn't waterproof. I was devastated.

The years and watches rolled on, I remember my first digital watch, it was the size of a matchbox and at the flick of switch it lit up with a brilliant red LED. At school classmates would queue up to see this wonder of modern technology.

I thought I'd have a watch strapped to my wrist all my life.

And then it stopped, both literally and metaphorically my love affair ended. A swiss watch I owned had a nasty encounter with a brick wall that left it without glass and me without a watch.

I resorted to my phone and adapted, suddenly for the first time in my life I had no watch or need for it. The years rolled by until one day, when on holiday, I saw a rather nice-looking watch in a jeweller's display. It glittered like the brightest jewel in the window, I'm sure I heard it call my name, in a trance like state I entered that shop and fifteen minutes later my love affair was back on.

Why buy a watch?

I wonder now how I managed to spend all those years without a watch, they are things of beauty, fashion statements with purpose. The perfect accoutrement for a man's wrist.

No more scrabbling about in my pocket for me each time I needed to know the time either.

I am proud to say I haven't been without one since.

But the market had become complicated, there were a lot of great men's watches out there just waiting for me.

This article aims to simplify the process for people like me, people who have come to realise that a watch is more than just an accessory, a watch is a friend for life.

Read on for a bit of guidance and some watch buying tips, in what has become a huge and exciting market.

What are the top-rated men's watches?

Or how long is a piece of string? This is obviously dependent on a huge range of factors, not least of which is personal taste, naturally budget plays another massive part in governing any choice. So, for this section I will break the article down and choose my personal favourites from within each price range.

Best men's wristwatches for under \$100.

Not everyone needs or can afford to wear expensive wristwatches. Personally, I confess to owning a rather nice Rolex, but I rarely wear it, I daren't, it is a luxury item, a gift to myself that sits in a hallowed box upon my dresser and gets rolled out on special occasions. Most of the time my watches are a bit like myself, modest and unassuming.

But that doesn't mean they don't look and feel great, there are some great watches under \$100, let's look at a few.

Casio A168WG-9

We all know Casio. They have been making great watches for as long as I can remember. In fact, although I can't be certain, I'm sure my first red LED watch was a Casio. If it wasn't I've certainly been the proud owner of more than a few throughout my life.

The Casio A168WG-9 is another quality men's watch from this company

It is water-resistant, with every feature you could want. Including a stopwatch, calendar, and alarm. And with its gold band it looks stunning too.

The price? Around \$40.00

Timex Expedition Scout 40

There is no way I could draw up a list such as this and not have a Timex on it. It was what kick-started my love affair.

The Expedition Scout is a perfect watch for overs of the outdoors. Water resistant up to 50 meters, hard wearing, nylon strap and incorporating an INDIGLO watch dial. this watch looks like a watch that costs far more than its \$40.00 price tag.

Swatch Elementary

A stunningly quirky design as we've come to expect from Swatch. This minimalist design was released to celebrate 100 years of Bauhaus design.

Water resistant to 30 meters, it uses a plain silicon strap to contrast against the rather lovely dial and hands. In my view this watch is a stunning looking sub \$100 dollar timepiece.

The cost? A bit of a fashion bargain at around \$75.

Best men's watches under \$200.

Such is the market these days, that even watches that cost the price of a take-away family meal are stunning pieces of equipment. But what if you raise the bar just a touch more.

Let's look at what you get for watches priced in the \$100 - \$200 range.

Bertucci 12122 A-2T

For it's money this is on the best men's wristwatches on the market. In some ways the design reminds me the Timex Expedition range. The Bertucci 12122 A-2t is part of the company's 'Original Classics' line. It is constructed from lightweight titanium, with a sandblasted finish and a 40mm watch face.

This is another watch for the outdoor enthusiast, and with its matt finish and a patented two-ply nylon strap, it has looks to die for.

Perhaps a catchier name though?

The cost? This one will set you back a mere \$120 or so.

Orient 'Bambino'

I so love this watch. There was a time when the more bells and whistles you could stick on a watch mattered. It was a time when manufacturers aimed for the most futuristic look possible.

Not with the Bambino, it reminds me of a watch that my father used to have. I remember thinking how ancient it looked, how old-fashioned. This watch very much reminds me of this.

Somehow the Bambino has achieved a look that is nostalgic, yet at the same time modern. But don't be fooled by the retro-feel, under the bonnet this watch features automatic movement, stainless steel bezel and a stunning leather strap.

The cost? \$140 - \$150.

Seiko 5 SNZF17

For my 21st birthday I wanted a watch, not just any watch though, it was a Seiko. I'd spotted it in the window of a jewellers close to where I lived. I used to stop and stare at it, almost daily. On my 21st Birthday I finally got to wear it. From then on I've always had a soft spot for Seiko. And this one is a stunner.

Seiko's have always had a dependable automatic movement and it is upon this foundation that the Seiko 5 is built. Add to this is the fact that this water resistant to 100m, has a stunning stainless-steel case and a chunky and comfortable strap.

The price? Another that sits around the \$150 mark.

Best men's wristwatches under \$1000

Let's ramp it up a bit. Okay, for a lot of us these will be luxury items, out with our price range. But there's no harm in looking, Right?

Seiko Prospex SPB051J1

So, I'm biased, I've already admitted to having a soft spot for Seiko. But that aside this watch sits on this list on its own merits. It is a stunning piece of engineering and it looks just beautiful too.

This is a really a re-issue of Seiko's first dive watch, the 6217. But upgraded to include a bigger 42.6mm diameter face (the 6217 was 38mm). It also incorporates Seiko's much vaunted 6R15 Automatic movement.

The price? You can pick this beauty up for between \$750 and \$800.

Hamilton Intra-Matic

Like the 'Bambino' watch we mentioned earlier this design harks back to a bygone era. Simple clean lines are the order of the day, this watch gently whispers understated elegance.

Featuring a large sunburst dial with a Hamilton's vintage 'H' logo discretely incorporated it looks absolutely stunning.

It has a 38mm diameter and uses the ETA 2892-2 automatic movement that has been a rock-solid performer for years.

The price? You should be able to pick this up for about \$850.

Christopher Ward Trident C60 Sapphire

Oh my, where do I start with this one. The looks of this watch completely blew me away. I absolutely love it, on looks alone I would snap this one up. But, once you add the engineering this one becomes one of my all-time favourites.

Okay so it's another 'Dive-watch' but to be honest I know divers and noy one of them would consider wearing something like this on a dive.

It has a gorgeous, blue-tinted sapphire dial underneath which is a Sellita SW200-1 automatic movement, the watch itself has a diameter of 40mm.

And of course, it is water resistant to a whopping 600m. Although I can't find thinking that if I ever find myself at a depth of 600m the last thing on my mind will be my watch, no matter how stunning it is!

The price of this beauty? Around \$900.

The best men's luxury watches

I will list a couple of watches in this category, it pains me that I can't have them all.

Rolex Yacht-Master II

Or to give it it's official title The Rolex Oyster Perpetual Yacht-Master II.

No list of high-end luxury watches can be complete without listing at least one Rolex watch. Ask the man in the street to name a luxury watch brand and you can be sure that most of them will answer 'Rolex.'

Also known as the 'Large Rolex' the Yacht-Master II is certainly a beast of a watch, at 44mm diameter. This watch is big and brash, but if that's your thing then this is a truly impressive piece of watch building.

It's a Rolls-Royce among watches, a status symbol. It goes beyond being a mere timepiece, but at the end of the day, that's what it is. A Watch.

Quality emanates from every micron of this machine; it oozes mechanical beauty.

The price? Well have a seat, this big beauty is, depending on model, going to cost you somewhere from \$15,000 dollars upwards.

Enough said, I can but dream.

Tag Heuer Men's Kirium F1

Let's reign it in a little, let's look at a luxury watch that may be within the range of mere mortals. Tag Heuer are another of my favourite brands and Formula One is one of my other passions. Seems sensible to combine these two passions and have a look at Tag Heuer's Formula one branded watch.

This Kirium series of watches has always been among the most popular in the Swiss company's range. The F1 version was released a few years after the original Kirium and promised with a promise of 100% precision it was highly promoted within the F1 paddock.

A stunning stainless steel case encapsulates the ETA E20.231 quartz movement, waterproof to 200m and boasting an accuracy to within 1/100th of a second, this is an absolutely stunning watch. Both in looks and performance, and while it couldn't be described as cheap. It is a high end, luxury watch at a mid-range price.

The price? It is listed as being around the \$1500 mark, however shopping around I have seen this watch priced at under \$1000.

In conclusion

Why buy a watch? Because they're awesome that's why. From the most basic Casio at \$30 to the bruiser that is the Rolex Yacht-Master II, watches are stunning pieces of machinery that make life simpler, make you look like the fashion statement that men usually aren't.

And isn't just nice to wear something that so much thought and care goes into, and to have the pleasure of letting tell you the time.

