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What:

THE MINUTE REPEATER ENJOYS A RETURN TO FAVOR

The minute repeater is an increasingly popular complication, respected for its complexity, its rarity and the beauty of its sound. Here are some of the best examples available today. ▼

with 413 parts to make up the striking

movement, is designed to maximize sound quality. Price: \$230,000 in pink gold. Contact:

Available at Jaeger-LeCoultre in Beverly Hills, Calif., 310.734.0525, jaeger-lecoultre.com.

Sound System

Due to an innovative gong and striking mechanism, this repeater is renowned for sound clarity.



Centuries ago, church clocks were a vital part of local life, the only source of accurate time. After early watchmakers endeavored to replicate them in miniature, their work led to the late 17th-century creation of the minute repeater, which chimes the time on demand. Even today the complication is difficult to design and execute. A watch case is hardly the ideal form in which sound can resonate, so manufacturers of minute repeaters spend an inordinate amount of time on the hammers and gongs, resulting in a very limited number of these extraordinary timepieces.

1 Patek Philippe Ref. 5216 Minute Repeater

This understated watch features a minute repeater as well as tourbillon escapement, a retrograde perpetual calendar and moon phases. It also comes in a 39.5mm rose gold case. Price: CHF **695,000** (about \$709,000) Contact: 212.218.1240, patek.com

Van Cleef & Arpels Poetic Wish

On the dial of the Midnight Poetic Wish pictured here, a young man on one of the terraces of the Notre Dame Cathedral towers moves to indicate the hour, while a motherof-pearl cloud moves towards him. When the two meet, the hours ring out, vancleef.com.

3 Christophe Claret Adagio The Adagio features a minute repeater, large date and GMT and is available in white gold, rose gold or platinum. Price: \$280,000. Contact: Phil Ogle, 954.610.2234,

4 Bulgari Daniel Roth **Carillon Tourbillon** This new three-hammer minute repeater from Bulgari, a company specializing in this exclusive complication, combines the striking mechanism with a carillonregulating mechanism. Price: \$257,000. Contact: 800.BULGARI, bulgari.com.

