ZRC Grands Fonds Réédition 38mm

The Geneva-based brand ZRC breathes new life into its iconic dive watch designed for the French Navy in the 1960s. Each detail of these attractive new references has been thought out to faithfully reproduce the design of the historical timepieces as closely as possible.

Who could resist being fascinated by the diversity of the ocean floor? Who could not marvel at the ingenuity of the instruments used to discover the ocean's depth in complete safety? Among the fascinating pages of the history of underwater exploration, a chapter narrates the birth of the ZRC Grands Fonds. Developed starting in 1958, it became the official watch of the French Navy in 1964. Its design precisely complies with an uncompromising set of specifications. Its six-sided hexagonal case, waterproof to a depth of 300 meters, and its unprecedented ergonomics with its crown at 6 o'clock won over the armed forces, professional divers, and then also the general public. Its contemporary reinterpretation introduced in 2015 confirmed its power of attraction, even today. Continuing the adventure, ZRC decided to pay tribute to the original models with two creations faithful in spirit and form: the Grands Fonds Réédition 38mm.

The references GF38163 - S2 and GF38263 - S3 take the Grand Fond into a new dimension, 39mm in diameter. The proportions of the Grand Fond's one-piece 316L steel case are perfect for both men's and women's wrists, retaining the lines, sharp angles, and curves that enabled it to ride out the waves of fashion and trends. Its design of great purity, both singular and timeless, can be found in every detail. Indeed, the glass box sapphire crystal has the same curvature as the Plexiglas of old. It sits on top of a dial that is also domed without a raised edge.

The Grands Fonds Réédition 38mm also incorporates the latest ZRC innovations. Extensive research into programmed material deformation technologies was applied to the design of the two-piece base, thus strengthening its capacity to withstand underwater pressures. Tested at 1,000 meters below sea level, the casing is guaranteed watertight to a depth of 300 meters. This ensures the proper functioning of the Sellita SW200-1 automatic winding caliber in its more elaborate version.

Although the two models share the same technical characteristics, there are aesthetic elements distinguishing them. The S2 model displays a refined dial. Two Magnum-type hour and minute hands and a "lollipop" style second hand point to an hour circle composed of four cardinal numerals and elongated markers. The softly clicking bezel is patterned with circles embedded in ceramic. This light, robust, scratch-resistant material replaces the original black epoxy for a longer life. The combination lends the GF38163 a sporty chic character, perfectly complementing any item in a heterogeneous contemporary wardrobe.

The S3 inevitably conjures up images of sporty diving and the Grands Fonds models offered since 1968. The 60-minute scaling on the aluminum bezel is seen as an extension of the numberless minute track on the dial's perimeter. The GF38263 is also distinctive due to its date at 3 o'clock. Its thinner hands ensure excellent legibility on this beautifully composed watch. The ubiquitous Super-LumiNova® grade X1 ensures optimal time data legibility under any light conditions.

All the models are accompanied by a steel wristband that is 100% identical to the original. Each has undergone 10,000 cycles of torsion and tensile testing ensuring unfailing robustness. Thanks to the four independent Allen screws, similar to the latest GF300 references, the owner can easily replace the wristband using a single tool. For the occasion, ZRC offers a wide range of colorful NATO wristbands, ideal for wearing the diver watch on any occasion.

Each Grands Fonds Reédition 38mm comes in a presentation box that is virtually identical to the original case. All come with a 36-month extended warranty.

In the spring of 2023, the Grands Fonds adventure will continue with an attractive model that is sure to create a sensation.