



Fixations

Watch Out

Hues of Blue

Sapphires add a stunning touch to Fall's elegant timepieces. **BY ROBERTA NAAS**

Today's watchmakers understand the discerning woman's love of color and are only too happy to offer options by marrying top-quality gemstones with some of their finest timepieces. This year, blue is particularly alluring, especially in light of the recent royal wedding and Duchess Catherine's sapphire ring. Sapphires, beloved for centuries and known to be a talisman of beauty and versatility, are the favored gemstone to achieve the richest hue of blue.

1. From **Franck Muller**, the Double Mystery 39mm watch (\$183,200) is as much a mechanical feat as it is a work of wearable art. The watch features two rotating discs that indicate the hour and the minute instead of utilizing the traditional numerals and hands—hence the name, Double Mystery. It runs from a powerful and complex automatic movement with segmented platinum rotor. The 18k white-gold watch is set with two rows of diamonds and a full pavé dial with sapphire markers. *Trabert & Hoefler Jewels, 111 E. Oak St.; franckmullerusa.com*

2. Called the **Stria III** (\$7,700), this quartz watch from **Bertolucci** makes a stunning style available at a relatively modest price. The watch is crafted in stainless steel and 925 sterling silver, and is set with 143 diamonds and 120 blue sapphires. It is accented with a blue alligator leather strap. The mother-of-pearl dial offers a wave pattern that continues the outer gemstone motif. *Furner Jewels, 124 Skokie Blvd., Wilmette; bertolucci-watches.com*

3. The elegant **de Grisogono** Tino S24S dual-time-zone watch (\$156,500) is created in polished 18k white gold and features a bezel, lugs and case invisibly set with baguette-cut blue sapphires. The look is further enhanced with a light blue guilloché and galvanized diamond-adooned dial, featuring 18k white gold and diamond Arabic numerals and markers. A pale blue galuchat strap completes the piece. *Genesee Seal Fine Jewelry & Timepieces, 112 E. Oak St.; degrisogono.com*

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