



GTM-06 / GRÖNEFELD

## GRÖNEFELD

Two brothers with the last name **Grönefeld** are behind the simple name of this boutique brand. The simplicity of the name in no way reflects the complexity of the watches, however. **Bart and Tim Grönefeld**, in fact, specialize in very complicated watchmaking. Having spent years honing their craft in the workshops of Switzerland, the brothers returned to Holland to make what has become the most complicated watch to ever be manufactured in that country: The **GTM-06**, whose initials stand for Grönefeld Tourbillon Minute Repeater, is a watch that was in development for more than four years before one was ever sold.

This should come as no surprise since their great-grandfather, Johan Grönefeld, began practicing the art of watchmaking in 1912 in the very city—and indeed the very workshop—the brothers continue to live in today: Oldenzaal, located near the German border.

Though minute repeaters are generally quite classic in their visuals, the relatively young Grönefeld brothers decided to give theirs a more modern feel, which is why the center of the dial is open to reveal the stunning mechanics, including the tourbillon at the unusual 10 o'clock position located underneath—rightfully making the manually wound movement the center of attention. The markers are set against the backdrop of a specially carved and shaped onyx ring containing hand-drilled holes to hold the gold display components.

The gold or platinum case lugs were specially created to enhance the chime of the repeater, which sounds when the slide on the left side of the case is activated. The chime is also recreated on the brothers' website, which allows potential customers to hear its melodious ring long before he or she may ever decide to buy it—which is a good thing, considering the price tag is quite impressive at about \$336,262 for the rose gold version and about \$360,780 for the platinum version. The watch is being manufactured in a strict limited edition of only ten pieces.

The GMT-06 comes in an unparalleled container: The hand-finished black piano lacquer box contains a leather-lined tray for the watch, instruction manual, ebony loupe, certificate of guarantee and space for *accoutrements* such as cufflinks. Below that is a ventilated wooden tray meant to hold cigars, and another level down we find a secret drawer containing a Davidoff black lacquer gas lighter and two cigar cutters.

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